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Dec. 11-17, 2015

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Witnesses selling big Dumbo lot

BY LAUREN GILL

It is the promised land!

The Jehovah's Witnesses have put a long sought-after vacant Dumbo lot on the market, and its broker says this is one real-estate opportunity that won't come knocking again.

"It's probably the last opportunity like this in the Dumbo area in my lifetime," said Richard Devine of Watchtower Real Estate.

The religious organization is selling off its block-sized parking lot at 85 Jay St. — a subway-adjacent blank canvas in the borough's wealthiest nabe that real estate moguls have coveted for years, as first reported by the Brooklyn Daily Eagle.

Devine refused to say what the asking price is, but "a lot" is a safe guess — the land at Front Street is around the size of two-and-a-half football fields, which a developer could fill with housing high-rises of up to 21 stories and as many as 800 one-bedroom units.

The Christmas-eschewing church convinced the city to rezone the land for residential use in 2004 — despite massive community opposition — so it could build four large towers there, though it never went

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DOUBLE D-EAL



Good enough for me!

Amateur cooking contest impresario Matt Timms will host a cookie-baking competition at the Royal Palms Shuffleboard Club in Gowanus on Dec. 13 and you can come sample all the entries! For more, see page 41

Photo by Jason Speakman

Developers offer free land for pool closure plan

BY COLIN MIXSON

It is the human-refuse-related offer too good to refuse, say these Gowanus residents.

A developer is attempting to avoid a city plan that would force it to sell its Gowanus Canal-side land to make way for a giant sewage tank, by offering instead to donate half of the property to the people of New York for free.

And some locals say it is a great deal — the city can save money by building the tank in nearby parkland it already owns, and the cleanup of the canal won't get bogged down by a lengthy and pricey eminent domain process.

"It's a game-changer," said neighborhood resident Katia Kelly, a member of the Gowanus Superfund Community Advisory Group, a panel of locals that advises the federal Environmental Protection Agency on the cleanup. "It's a

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Photos by Stefano Giovannini

The members of Community News Group's editorial team sat down with New York City Housing Authority commissioner Shola Olatoye last Friday for a more than hour-long interview discussing the challenges facing the country's largest landlord. The following is a breakdown of her take on the authority's situation in Brooklyn, where boilers need to be replaced, and land on which some of the so-called "projects" sit is being primed for development.

**BY MAX JAEGER
 AND RUTH BROWN**

Coney Island and Red Hook public housing residents will have to wait longer than expected before the city replaces temporary boilers that have been heating their homes since Hurricane Sandy, the agency's head told this paper.

The New York City Housing Authority is still waiting on \$3 billion the Federal Emergency Management Agency promised it more than a year ago, though Coney Island will be the first to feel the heat, because the authority got the feds to pre-approve construction plans, she said.

"As soon as we receive the federal funding, we will begin construction for the permanent replacement of those boilers," said housing authority chief executive officer Shola Olatoye in a sit-down with Community News Group's editors. "There's an agreed list of scope items that they have pre-approved, and therefore they will advance money to us faster. Coney Island was the first one that we had agreed on with them."

The authority has shelled out \$3 million a month for temporary boilers in 16 Sandy-affected developments including the Carey Gardens and O'Dwyer Gardens devel-

opments in Coney Island and the borough's largest, the Red Hook Houses, since late 2012, according to authority heads' testimony before Council last year.

The agency initially used coal-fired heaters rented from Southern states, but replaced them with gas-powered ones when the coke-burning boilers lacked the muscle to power through New York winters.

Housing officials testified the temporary boilers would be in place until the middle of 2016, but construction takes between 12 and 18 months, and the authority doesn't expect federal money until next year — meaning it likely won't complete installing permanent heaters until January 2017 at the earliest.

"Because this is government, it's never quite easy," Olatoye said.

When the reconstruction is done, developments will be more storm-resistant than before — with new security doors and cameras to boot, she said.

"We're not just building them back where they were, all of the designs have raised boilers," she said. "And it's not just about the boilers. We're putting in new security doors and wiring and CCTVs — really sealing the building

from potential future weather events."

Olatoye also spoke about a number of other issues facing Brooklyn's public housing residents, as well as what the underfunded authority is doing to catch up on \$17 billion in backlogged repairs.

Co-habitation

Olatoye offered new details on the authority's controversial plan to let developers build 500 market-rate and so-called "affordable" units on land at Boerum Hill's Wyckoff Gardens houses — which she said are currently in need of \$40 million in repairs.

The scheme had many residents fearful that they would eventually be pushed out when the authority notified them of it via robocall in September — Olatoye described their response as "dynamic" — and as a result, she said the authority has extended its "engagement" process with residents into the first quarter of 2016, which will ultimately determine where the new housing goes.

Olatoye said they are currently deciding between sites that currently house parking garages and a fenced-off vacant lot on the corners of the property.

The authority will start

accepting proposals from developers around July of next year and will pick one by the end of next year.

The building process, however, will take much longer, she said. The developer's proposal will have to go through a lengthy public review process — which will go through the community board and Council — in addition to the authority's own review.

It will be at least two years "before there is a shovel in the ground" Olatoye said, and potentially even longer if the review drags on.

Expect to see more housing properties across the city get similar treatment over the next decade. Olatoye said she understands why people are worried about losing open space on the properties, but it is a luxury the near-bankrupt agency can no longer afford.

"It was a luxury we had to have that kind of space," she said. "We're looking at seas of red in terms of how this place is operating."

Still offline

The city still hasn't selected a contractor to set up promised free wifi at the Red Hook Houses, Olatoye said — even though the high-speed internet is supposed to start

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SHELTER SKELTER

Some residents welcome new homeless home...

BY YVONNE JURIS

Give them shelter!

Dozens of Kensington residents are collecting supplies and gifts for a controversial new homeless shelter opening across the road from an elementary school this week. Some locals are still fuming after the city abruptly announced the new refuge late last month, but the do-gooding denizens say it is time to move on and welcome their new neighbors with open arms.

"It's here, from what I understand. That's not gonna change, so let's try to make the best of it," said local resident Dina Garfinkel, who has been collecting diapers for the young children and parents that will soon move into the 64-unit shelter on McDonald Avenue.

In the weeks since the announcement, at least 125 kind-hearted Kensingtonians have cobbled together \$1,500 in gift cards for a local supermarket, created 75 "welcome packets" with information about the neighborhood, and are now organizing presents and cards to send to the new residents at Christmas — a testament to local generosity, said one organizer.

"I live in the community and I knew that there were



Photo by Louise Wateridge

DIAPER DRIVE: (Above) Leah Seltzer from the Flatbush and Shaare Torah Jewish Center on E. Fifth Street, where Dina Garfinkel has placed a box for people to donate diapers to the controversial homeless coming to the new shelter at 385 McDonald Ave. in Kensington (right).

plenty of people who would want to help," said Catherine Barufaldi, who rallied locals to volunteer their time and donations via a community Facebook page.

Some residents remain worried that the new shelter — which will be across the road from PS 230 between Albemarle Road and Church Avenue — will attract unsavory characters to the area, putting kids at risk and lowering home



Photo by Arthur De Gaeta

values. But the volunteers say they think neighbors will be less afraid when the new families actually arrive.

"Once you actually meet real people there, it's really hard to be scared of that individual that you get into conversation with," said Cara Kantrowitz, who has worked with homeless people in the past and has also been collecting diapers for the new shelter.

Besides, Kantrowitz said,

the Park Slope Armory women's shelter has been around for decades and doesn't seem to have held back skyrocketing house prices in *that* neighborhood.

"It hasn't seemed to hurt Park Slope any," she said.

The operators of the new shelter say they're touched by the outpouring of generosity — and they know the refuge's residents will be as well.

"The response is heart-

warming, and families will be delighted with the knowledge that people care about them," said Joanne Oplustil, head honcho of social service agency Camba, which will run the refuge.

You can donate diapers for the shelter at the Flatbush and Shaare Torah Jewish Center [327 E. Fifth St. between Church Avenue and Beverly Road in Kensington, (718) 871-5200, fjc-brooklyn.wordpress.com].

...but others fear it will put school kids in danger

BY COLIN MIXSON

The city must find a new site for a homeless shelter it plans to open across the road from a Kensington elementary school, say locals who rallied in front of the McDonald Avenue building on Monday.

The rabble rousers claim they don't object to the forthcoming refuge — which the city says will house families with young kids — they just think it is too dangerous to place it in such close proximity to a public school.

"I'm not against homeless people, I'm against the location where they're putting it in," said neighborhood resident Eva Shakiri, one of a few dozen locals who showed up to protest.

Some residents felt the Department of Homeless Services blindsided them when it announced in late November that the 65-unit shel-

ter was coming and just weeks away. But the protest's organizer said he and some other locals didn't find about out about it at all until this weekend, and the number of people who nevertheless showed up to demonstrate a day later shows how strongly they object.

"We only had one day, and a lot of people came," he said.

The protesters hefted signs bemoaning the location of the shelter, between Albemarle Road and Church Avenue, across from PS 230 and the more than 1,300 students it serves.

"Out of your mind! Homeless shelter stone throw distances from elementary schools in a conservative neighborhood," read one placard.

Fliers distributed to promote the rally suggested that the residents expected to move into the shelter would include drug-users, sexual



Photo by Arthur De Gaeta

NOT IN MY BACKYARD: Ellen Glickfield joined dozens of Kensington residents in protesting a new homeless shelter.

predators, and other criminals.

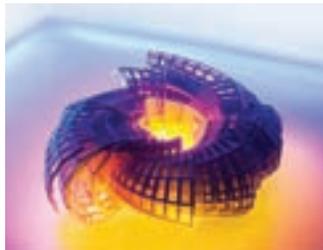
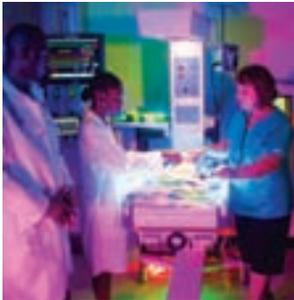
"Needless to say a homeless center carries the risk of drugs, sex-

ual predatory activities and other crimes that endanger the lives of innocent people," the notice read.

At a meeting announcing the shelter last month, homeless services officials stressed that the facility will exclusively cater to families with young children, and claimed it will put plenty of security measures in place, including guards, cameras, metal detectors, and a curfew.

The shelter is supposed to open this week, but the protesters remain hopeful the city will rethink the location and work with the community to find a new, more amicable site.

"My main thing is they didn't ask us before so we could help them find a better location," Shakiri said. "I'm not against homeless people — I'm all for the needy, I'll give them the shirt off my back. But the location is no good."

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Movers and bakers!

French cookie company relocating to Gowanus



DOUGH BOY: Michel et Augustin's Antoine Chauvel shows off some baked goods.

Photo by Jason Speakman

BY LAUREN GILL

These Parisians are heading to the Left Bank — of the Gowanus Canal!

A fancy French cookie company is moving its stateside corporate headquarters to the corner of Fourth and Bond streets next month, where locals will be able to drop by to help taste-test new products.

Michel et Augustin has been leasing space in Brooklyn Heights since expanding to the United States in January, but wanted some permanent digs where it can grow and host cookie chow-downs for all its new neighbors, a company honcho said.

"Now we know the city, we know the people, and we will finally be able to have them in our own space," said Tony Chauvel, who is Michel et Au-

gustin's vice president of sales and has also been in charge of moving the business to Kings County.

The company still bakes all of its wares in Europe for now, but the new office will include a test kitchen where employees and visitors can road-test new additions to its lineup, which currently includes shortbread, chocolate mousse, and "super cookies" with a melted chocolate center.

The company will open its doors to Brooklynites on the first Thursday of every month for tastings and baking lessons, Chauvel said.

The small company has really blown up in America since moving here a year ago, he said — more than 100 Brooklyn cafes and grocery stores have started stocking its cookies since June.

Mystery man stabs Ft. Greene playwright

BY RUTH BROWN

A stealthy attacker stabbed a famous playwright in the neck in Fort Greene on Sunday evening and then disappeared into the night, police said.

The victim — Tony-award winner David Henry Hwang, according to a Daily News report — told authorities an unknown assailant snuck up from behind him as he was walking on S. Portland Avenue near Lafayette Avenue at 8:50 pm, slashed him, and then fled.

The attacker didn't say anything or try to steal anything from Hwang, according to a report.

Fortunately, he was only silent,

not deadly — the scribe walked to Brooklyn Hospital after noticing he was bleeding, where doctors patched him up and released him, police said.

Authorities have released a security camera still showing a suspect, but the knife-man is only visible from behind.



Associated Press / Jim Cooper

VICTIM: Someone stabbed famed playwright David Henry Hwang near his Fort Greene home.

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BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK NYC Parks



Playing reindeer games

BY LAUREN GILL

Hundreds of Brooklyn kids donned antlers and galloped through Prospect Park on Saturday for the annual Reindeer Run. And the youngsters weren't just horsing around, said an organizer — they also got a serious workout.

"It's about getting the kids out running and being active," said Michael Rodgers, vice president of development and philanthropy of community running group the New York

Road Runners, which stages the event to raise money for its youth running programs.

This is the third year the group has staged the festive dash in which elementary and middle-school-aged squirts complete a three-quarter-mile course in Brooklyn's Backyard.

Volunteers dressed as holiday icons like snowmen and Christmas trees helped nearly 450 pint-sized striders along the way by encouraging them

to keep on running.

At the end of the run, the wiped-out kids were rewarded with hot cocoa, holiday-themed bagels, and a sense of accomplishment — a win-win for both parents and their offspring, according to one mom.

"They like the challenge and I love when the kids get great exercise," said Park Sloper Dana Blitstein, whose daughters Holly, 9, and Liora, 6, also participated last year. "What could be better?"

NO SLEIGH IN SIGHT: (Above) Nearly 450 kids turned out on Dec. 5, all donning reindeer antlers as they completed the three-quarter mile run. (Center) A Christmas tree high-fives a small runner as she crosses the finish line. (Left) Liora Blitstein, Jane Crawmer, Tali Blitstein, and Claire Crawmer show off their antlers. Photos by Louise Wateridge



Renewing Struggling Schools

by Michael Mulgrew
President,
United Federation of
Teachers

Cities and school districts across the country have tried a range of strategies to deal with the problems of poor children and struggling schools.

Under former Mayor Bloomberg, New York City relied on a "shutdown" strategy, eventually closing 150 schools, including some that the Bloomberg administration itself had created.

While Bloomberg's cheerleaders lauded his approach, the fact is that many of our schools — both older ones and those started during Bloomberg's tenure — continue to struggle.

In contrast, the de Blasio administration has listened to teachers and members of school communities. We know that it is difficult, but struggling schools can succeed — if provided the proper support and resources, and a team approach that brings all a school's stakeholders together.

The city's new Renewal program, created with input from stakeholders, is designed to focus on some of the neediest schools in the system. Early returns show that many of these schools have stabilized and in some cases are started on the road to improvement.

Students in these schools start out with deficits. Nearly 20 percent are English Language Learners and almost a quarter are classified as special education. Thousands live in shelters or are doubled up with relatives. Many are hungry, lack winter clothes, or have medical needs, including glasses and hearing aids. Many have parents who are unemployed or who work long hours at minimum-wage jobs.

Teachers at these schools see these problems not as excuses, but as issues that need to be addressed to ensure that all kids have an equal opportunity to learn.

Renewal schools are being paired with non-profit agencies to deliver services like health care and counseling to students and their families. What's more, the nearly \$400 million the administration is investing in these schools over the next three years includes funds for hiring teachers, academic

coaches, social workers and other professionals, along with professional development for the staff on the skills necessary to work with children facing these challenges.

While in 2013-14 nearly one-third failed to meet targets for student achievement, the 2014-2015 School Quality Report shows that now 87 percent of the renewal schools are moving in the right direction, measured by better attendance, more family involvement and other criteria. As a group, they showed gains in both reading and math on state tests.

Many of these schools have a long way to go. Turning them around is difficult, particularly in the face of years of cutbacks and systemic indifference. These schools will require a multi-year strategic intervention built on sound education practice, including custom-tailored supports for each school's particular needs. With its Renewal program, New York City is taking on tough work that no one in the country has attempted before on this scale.

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FIRED UP!

Grand Army Plaza menorah is alight



A CELEBRATION OF LIGHT: Revelers dance up a storm after the giant menorah is set aflame on the first night of Hanukkah.
Photo by Louise Wateridge

BY LAUREN GILL

It is a leading light!

A huge crowd gathered outside Prospect Park on Sunday to witness the giant menorah at Grand Army Plaza light up for this first time this Hanukkah, and the rabbi responsible claims his holy candelabra outshone all other around the globe.

“There are many menorahs all over the world but we give off the most light,” said Rabbi Shimon Hecht of the Chabad of Park Slope.

Hecht also claims the colossal candle-holder is the tallest on the planet, though a Manhattan menorah disputes that title. It is, nevertheless, the largest in Brooklyn — the center bulb hits a peak height of 33-foot-11 and is lit via cherry picker.

Around 1,500 people turned out to celebrate the first night of this year’s Festival of Lights. Attendees noshed on latkes and danced up a storm to the music of Jewish rock band Pey Dalid alongside guys dressed in dreidel costumes, and just generally had a great time, Hecht said.

“People who came the first night had a great time,” he said. “They felt it was a great display of freedom and they were very excited to be part of it.”

The festivities will continue every night through Dec. 13, with more music, latkes, and gifts for kids.

Visit the menorah lighting at Grand Army Plaza (between Plaza Street



GET LIT: (Top) Chabad Park Slope lights up its massive menorah via cherry picker, (above) a music-filled celebration ensued.

Photos by Louise Wateridge

West and Plaza Street East in Prospect Heights, www.chabadparkslope.com, 5 pm through Dec. 13. Free.



Kids flip out for Nets star

BY ALLEGRA HOBBS

Christmas came early for these kids!

Youngsters were over the moon when Brooklyn Nets star Thaddeus Young paid a surprise visit to their Bedford-Stuyvesant after-school program with a bundle of toys and a Christmas tree last Thursday, according to an organizer.

"The children were completely taken by surprise," said Sonya Shields of Brooklyn Community Services, which runs the program at PS

21 on Chauncey Street. "From the moment the tree came in, they were screaming at the top of their lungs."

The ball-player delivered 250 gifts throughout the day to the kids, handing out basketballs, board games, and race cars to delighted tykes.

The baller also set up a tree — donated by local service Tyler's Trees — and helped the kids decorate it with the holiday trimmings.

Some of the younger tots just thought Young was some super nice stranger, but older

kids recognized the star and were thrilled to hang out with a pro athlete, said Shields.

"When they heard Thaddeus from the Nets was coming, they just lost it," she said. "It was really special."

Young also had a blast decorating the tree and handing out playthings, and the Nets are proud to have made the kids' holiday seasons, a team rep said.

"It was a great opportunity for our organization and of course for Thaddeus," said Jeff Scott.

HOLIDAY CHEER: (Above) Brooklyn Nets cheerleaders entertained the kids at a Bedford-Stuyvesant school when Nets star Thaddeus Young showed up with a bundle of toys. (Center) Kids were overjoyed to see the baller in person. (Left) Young hands out toys. Photos by Louise Wateridge

BUSINESS, BROOKLYN STYLE - ADVERTISEMENT

Stay warm with help from Ferrantino Fuel / FFC Energy

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

Heating season has arrived, and you can depend upon Ferrantino Fuel / FFC Energy to keep you warm all winter.

The company provides the finest energy products and services to residential, commercial, and industrial customers throughout the five boroughs and to southern Westchester, too.

This family-owned business has been around for 80 years. The hands-on owners are Rodger and Mark Loughlin, two brothers, proud to partake in this family enterprise that provides heating oil, natural gas, diesel and bio fuels to the community and beyond.

Now is the time to contact Ferrantino Fuel / FFC Energy to secure a contract and lock in pricing, as costs fluctuate when the market changes, and it is currently at a 10-year low. The company offers contracts for parts and services to a wide range of custom-



Rodger Jr. and Mark Loughlin, brothers and co-owners of Ferrantino Fuel.

Photo by Jason Speakman

ers that include one-family homes, universities, management companies, New York City buildings, and more. It saves customers money by selling at competitive prices, and it offers a reliable 24-hour service, seven days a week, including all holidays. Ferrantino Fuel / FFC Energy only uses its own private fleet of trucks to deliver, as well as its own oil drivers.

"If something should happen at 1 am, we respond, usually within two hours of getting the call," say the Loughlins. If an emergency call comes in after business hours, the answering service sees that the service manager or the owner gets the information immediately, no matter what the time. Ferrantino Fuel / FFC Energy has provided this kind of reliable

care to its customers all these years.

A maintenance contract serves to protect customers against out-of-pocket repair costs, and includes a system tune-up to make sure equipment is operating efficiently. This reduces the chance of breakdowns. Should you decide to upgrade existing energy equipment with a technologically advanced heating system, you can experience a savings of up to 30 percent off your heating costs. You might also be eligible for some tax breaks. Call to speak with one of the fuel equipment experts.

The company's history is an interesting one. It was established by Angelo Ferrantino, who started Ferrantino Ice and Coal Company in 1911 because coal and ice were products people needed back then. It was expanded by his daughter, Grace, who operated the business from 1934 to 1941. It was she who decided, in 1935, to move the company into the direction of oil heat,

to meet the needs of a changing time. The company was renamed Ferrantino Fuel Corporation.

Grace married, and together with her husband, Dominick Serini, continued to build the business. Their oldest daughter, Lucretia, married Rodger Loughlin Sr. in 1964, and it is Rodger and his two sons, Mark and Rodger Jr., who now own and operate the company. The words FFC Energy were added to the name in recent years when the company expanded to include natural gas.

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Ferrantino Fuel / FFC Energy [180 Ninth St. between Second and Third avenues in Park Slope, (718) 832-6700, www.ffcenergy.com]. Available 24 hours, seven days a week.

78TH PRECINCT

PARK SLOPE

Bike bandit

A thief rode off with a man's Cannon Dale bicycle he left chained up on Degraw Street on Nov. 25.

The victim told police that he parked his bike between Third and Fourth avenues at 1 pm, and returned a half hour later to find his bike was nowhere to be seen.

Hog wash

Some lawbreaker throttled off with a man's motorcycle, which he'd parked on Union Street on Nov. 5.

The victim told police he left his bike between Fifth and Sixth avenues at 5 pm, and returned five days later to find an empty spot where his hog had been.

Trailer trashed

A burglar broke into and ransacked a trailer on 10th Street sometime between Nov. 25 and Nov. 27, taking electronics.

The victim told police he locked the trailer between Second and Third avenue at 3 pm, and returned two days later to find the door was ajar and its lock missing. Inside, he discovered a Dell computer and wireless router were missing, cops said.

Jacked

A carjacker road off with a man's 2006 Subaru Lapreza, which he'd parked on Seventh Street on Nov. 25.

The victim told police he left his car between Fifth and Sixth avenues at 9 am, and returned a day later to find some thief had driven off with it.

Double jeopardy

A weasel broke into and cleaned out two Carlton Avenue homes on Nov. 24, taking more than an estimated \$30,000 worth of kitchen appliances and tools.

The victim told police that the crook broke down the front door of his home between Bergen Street and Saint Marks Avenue at 5 pm, before gathering up a bevy of hefty appliances — including a microwave, stove top grill, and wine fridge.

The thief then moved on to the next house over, again breaking down the front door before nabbing the tools — including two belt sanders and an air conditioning unit, cops said.

Stolen Subaru

A thief drove off with a man's 2006 Subaru Impreza he left on President Street on Nov. 16.

The victim told police that he parked his car between Fifth and Sixth avenues at 11 am, and returned a week later to find he was short one vehicle. — *Colin Mixson*



POLICE BLOTTER

84TH PRECINCT

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DUMBO-
BOERUM HILL-DOWNTOWN

Scroll 'n' snatch

A delinquent snatched a phone straight out of a woman's hand as she was using it on Fourth Avenue on Nov. 30.

The woman told police she was scrolling through her phone near St. Marks Place at 9:20 pm when a sticky-fingered teenager approached her from behind, grabbed her phone, and fled.

Moonlight haul

A heister broke into a Hoyt Street bar and lifted a hefty sum of cash on Dec. 1.

A man said he left for work at 7 am when he noticed the side door to the bar near Bergen Street had been broken into. He called 911 and when the police showed up they found someone had stolen a safe containing \$5,000, two cash drawers with \$600, and a cash box holding \$800, according to a report.

Pocketbook plunder

A lout lifted a woman's pocketbook as she took a snooze on a Flatbush-bound 2 train by Clark Street on Dec. 2.

The victim told police she was on the locomotive near Henry Street at 8 am. She fell asleep for a few minutes and when she awoke she found her pocketbook had been seized from her lap. — *Lauren Gill*

76TH PRECINCT

CARROLL GARDENS-COBBLE HILL-
RED HOOK

Shot on Hoyt Street

Three reprobates shot a teen in the shoulder after an encounter on Hoyt Street on Dec. 4, according to police.

The teen was between Union and Baltic streets around 7:45 pm when he encountered the three-some. He had a verbal exchange with the trio, and as he turned to walk away, one of the three fired two shots at him, according to the police report.

The first shot missed, but the second hit his shoulder and broke his collarbone, authorities said.

Bad timing

A callous thief stole a student's

backpack filled with educational essentials from her car parked on Congress Street on Dec. 5, police said.

She parked her car around noon and came back later in the day to find her backpack containing her MacBook Pro and a business textbook missing. December is finals season for many schools.

Card cad

Some goon broke into a home on Baltic Street on Dec. 4, but the woman living at the home scared him off before he could get away with much, according to police.

The woman was asleep in her home between Bond and Hoyt streets, and woke up sometime between 1 and 3 am when she heard the blinds moving. She saw a man outside her window and threatened him until he fled, cops said. She went back to bed, but found the next day that some credit cards, identification cards, clothes, and a pair of watches were missing, she told police.

The thief failed to make any major purchases with her cards before she shut them down. All he bought was a MetroCard for \$3, according to police.

Brutal beatdown

A group of four or five brutes beat and robbed a man who was minding his own business during a stroll down Baltic Street on Dec. 4.

The man told police he was near the corner of Bond Street around 9:30 pm when the group approached him and started punching him in the face and body.

They ran his pockets and got away with a grand total of \$50 bucks, police said. Emergency responders transported the badly hurt man to New York Methodist Hospital for treatment. — *Dennis Lynch*

90TH PRECINCT

SOUTHSIDE-BUSHWICK

Traffic accident

Cops collared a trio who they say tried to rob a guy on Meserole Street at knifepoint on Dec. 2 before chasing him into the street — where a driver struck him.

The victim told cops he was near Waterbury Street at 11:20 am when the three alleged baddies approached and one pulled out a knife, saying "Run it, this is a jack."

When the victim ran, the knife-wielder allegedly chased him into

the street and the guy was mowed down by the driver, cops said. The alleged perps fled down Meserole Street towards Bushwick Avenue but were ultimately cuffed by authorities, according to a police report.

Four against one

Four scoundrels beat and mugged a guy on Scholes Street on the morning of Dec. 5.

The guy was at Bushwick Avenue at 9:30 am when the vicious group walked up and punched him in the back of the head and started rifling through his pockets, authorities said. The perps snatched his wallet with \$100 in cash and his cellphone before fleeing in an unknown direction, according to a police report.

The victim went to a nearby hospital with lacerations on his eyes, head, and face, cops said.

Batman

A smarmy creep followed a woman for several blocks before trying to grab her purse on Berry Street in the early morning hours of Dec. 1, but a vigilante do-gooder ultimately chased the guy away.

The woman said the low-life started following her at N. Fifth Street and Bedford Avenue at 2:25 am, telling her that she was pretty. When she was near Berry and Grand streets he tried to grab her purse, then dragged her to the floor when she resisted, authorities said.

But a good Samaritan saw the tussle and sprang into action, chasing the scoundrel away before silently fleeing the scene, cops said. The woman had scraped knees and her bag was broken, but no property was stolen, according to a police report.

The perp fled in an unknown direction, but a witness told cops he saw someone matching the description running down Berry Street towards Metropolitan Avenue.

94TH PRECINCT

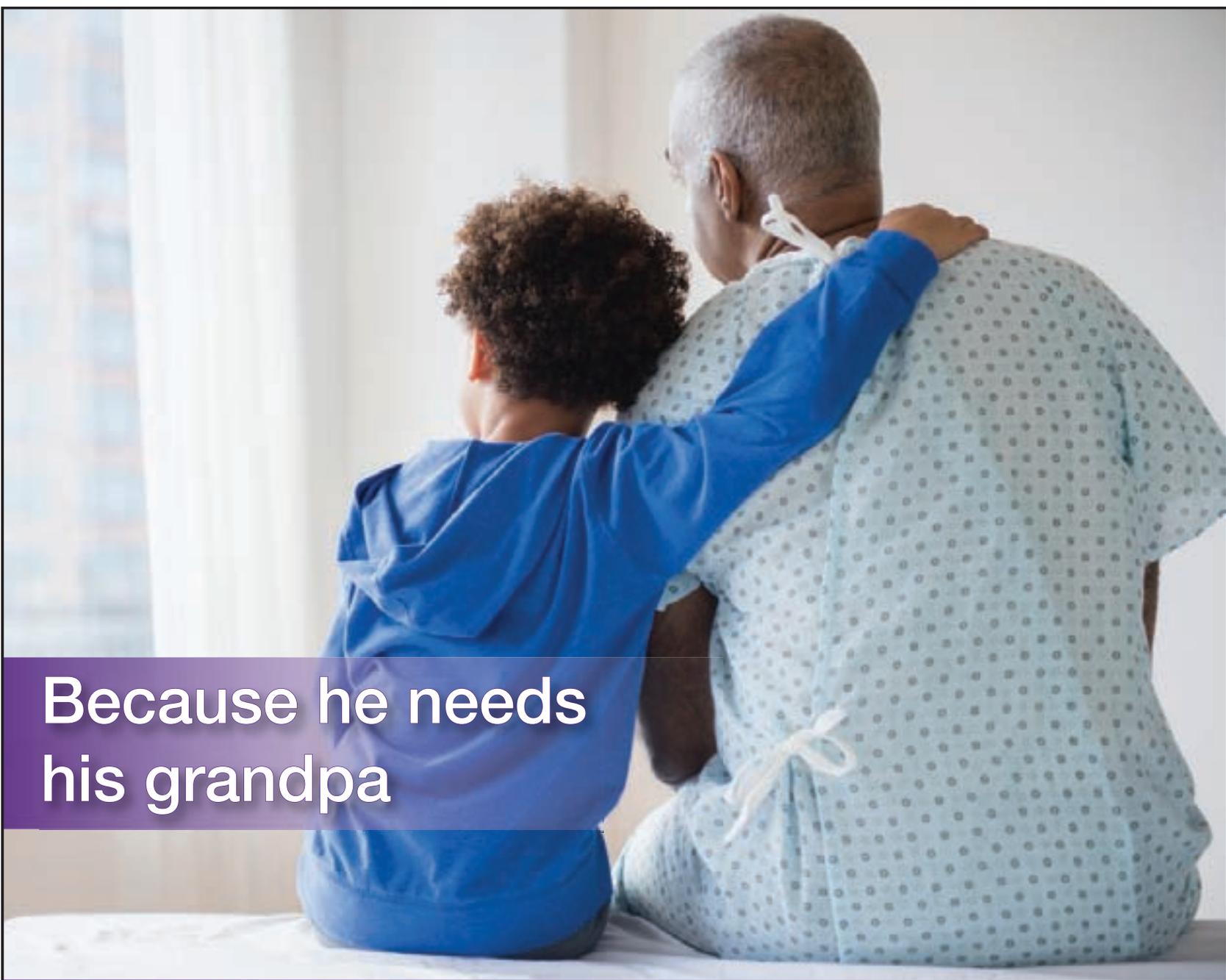
GREENPOINT-NORTHSIDE

Dine and smash

A couple of punks broke into a Calyer Street diner and smashed in the place's safe and cash register in the early morning hours of Dec. 2.

An employee of the diner near Franklin Street came in to open the business at 9:15 am to find two wide windows smashed in and open, said cops. The employee said surveillance footage shows two guys wearing masks and gloves drive up to the location in a car at around 5 am, then break in the window to climb into the diner, authorities said.

The burglars broke a cash register and broke into a safe, though it is unclear whether they managed to steal any cash, according to a police report. — *Allegra Hobbs*



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Deck the hauls

Bay Ridge cabbie decorates his car for Christmas season

BY DENNIS LYNCH

War on Christmas be damned! A Bay Ridge cabbie turned his for-hire vehicle into a veritable rolling Christmas tree as part of his annual mission to spread holiday cheer. Driver Ibrahim Eid festooned the interior with ornaments and blinking bulbs, and now the lively livery cab is a legend among Bay Ridge's ever-merry bar-goers, one frequent fare said.

"The people working in the bars in Bay Ridge all know him, and everybody wants the Christmas cab," said Salty Dog bartender Francis Lawler. "People love it when he rolls up with the lights and music going. I can't tell you how many times I've seen people post photos and videos on social media taking rides in the Christmas cab."

At night the car lights up like, well, a Christmas tree — Eid plays Christmas tunes and illuminates multicolored



THE CHRISTMAS CABBIE: Ibrahim Eid has been decorating his cab with lights and ornaments for six years. He also decorates for other holidays, including St. Patrick's Day. Photo by Georgine Benvenuto

lights and tiny disco balls strung across the cab's ceiling, creating a kaleidoscope of festivity. He got the tradition rolling six years ago, but this year he and co-workers at Alex II Limo and Car Service plan to spruce up the outside of his ride too, he said.

"It's not finished, I've got more to do," said Eid, who is not Christian but said he and

his family enjoy celebrating America's beloved holidays. "This year we'll put lights on and decorations on the outside."

The driver does it for fun and to bolster business, he said.

"Everybody loves it — this guy gave me his phone number and address after a ride so I could pick him up

again," said Eid.

You need not come to Bay Ridge to hail the holiday ride — Eid will pick up kindred Christmas spirits anywhere in the city for the right price, he said.

And if you miss out this season you can always call around St. Patrick's Day, when Eid dresses himself and his cab in all green.



MERRYMAKERS: Cab driver Ibrahim Eid, seated, and Mamdouh Abdelaal, owner of Alex II Car Service, say they get calls every holiday season for the decorated cab.

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Brooklyn AIDS org honors Rosie Perez

BY LAUREN GILL

She is doing the right thing!

A Brooklyn health organization honored Clinton Hill actress Rosie Perez at a Downtown gala last Tuesday, celebrating her efforts to educate people about HIV and AIDS and champion those living with the disease — and the gratitude was a long time coming, organizers said.

“She has done a lot for the field and no one has really recognized her for it,” said Spencer Casseus, a spokesman for Bridging Access to Care — formerly the Brooklyn AIDS Taskforce — which works to connect HIV-positive Brooklynites to housing and health care.

The outfit presented the Bushwick-born performer — who is a member of President Obama’s Advisory Council on HIV-AIDS and has been advocating for awareness since the early ’90s — with its humanitarian award for her work.

The event took place on World AIDS Day, and the organization’s director was thrilled the “Fearless” actress chose to attend the hometown gala on the such an important date.

“She said she could have been anywhere on World AIDS Day and she chose to be in the community with us,” said executive director Glenda Smith.

Around 200 people showed up to the shindig — which also honored Poz Magazine editor-in-chief Oriol Gutier-



SPEAKING OUT: Actress and activist Rosie Perez accepts a humanitarian award at Bridging Access to Care’s World AIDS Day benefit Downtown showroom on Dec. 1.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

rez — raising money for the organization through ticket-sales and raffles.

Furniture giant Raymour and Flanigan hosted the bash in its Fulton Street showroom, and a store rep said the company was thrilled to do its part.

“It’s great being able to give back to the community and see how people reacted to what we do,” said store manager Arsalan Baig.

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Pedestrian in critical condition after crash

BY LAUREN GILL

A driver plowed into a woman as she attempted to cross Flatbush Avenue Extension last Wednesday, authorities said.

The 34-year-old woman tried to cross the busy thoroughfare against a red light near Myrtle Avenue at around 11:47 am, when the driver of a

Manhattan-bound black Nissan Sentra collided with her, police said.

Emergency workers transported the victim to Methodist Hospital with serious head injuries, and she was in critical condition as of Dec. 3, cops said.

The driver remained at the scene, according to a witness.



AN UNFORTUNATE CROSSING: A driver hit a woman as she was stepping out onto Flatbush Avenue Extension to cross towards Fort Greene on Dec. 2.

Photo by Paul Martinka

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PRETTY IN PINK: (Above) The little dancers of the Tiny Toes program in Bedford-Stuyvesant dressed up in their ballerina best for a special “Nutcracker”-themed lesson. (Center) The girls stretch with real-life ballerina Michele Lee Wiles. (Left) Former American Ballet Theatre star Wiles gives the girls enthralled. Photos by Louise Wateridge

Getting to the pointe

BY ALLEGRA HOBBS

These tiny dancers were spinning out!

Bedford-Stuyvesant’s tiniest tutu-ed tots had a blast learning to plié and pirouette with a real-life ballerina at their local Y on Saturday, when former American Ballet Theatre star Michele Lee Wiles came by for a special lesson.

“They had a fantastic

time, and they felt like ballerinas for the day,” said the center’s senior managing director Sonia Atherly.

Wiles, who was a principal dancer with the famed company and now runs experimental studio Ballet Next, led the class of little girls between the ages of 3 and 6 in some stretches and standard ballet moves to music from holiday classic “The Nutcracker.”

The youngsters — part of the Y’s Tiny Toes program — twirled, leapt across the studio, and practiced at the ballet bar, according to Atherly.

The Bedford-Stuyvesant YMCA has been teaming up with Wiles and fellow Ballet Next dancers for three years to give aspiring ballerinas a taste of the authentic prima experience at summer camps and other workshops.

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Landmarks OKs new Bed-Stuy historic district



WORTH SAVING: (Above) Eye-catching brownstones in the proposed Bedford Historic District. (Below) A map of the proposed district, which the city's landmarks commission approved last Thursday.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

BY ALLEGRA HOBBS

It is history in the making!

The city's landmarks commission voted unanimously to designate a swathe of lavish 19th-century Bedford-Stuyvesant buildings as a historic district on Dec. 8.

The proposed Bedford Historic District — bounded by Monroe and Fulton streets and Bedford and Thompkins avenues — is a veritable gallery of well-preserved period architecture and the recognition is a long time coming, said one member of the panel.

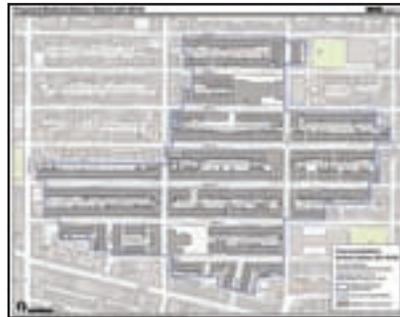
"It's really a museum of late 19-century architecture in New York, and so much of it is so intact," said commissioner Frederick Bland. "I think it's a marvelous new addition and it really is hard to believe it took this long."

The area features around 800 homes in a variety of eye-catching architectural styles — many of them fancy Renaissance revival-style row houses or intricately carved Neo-Grec brownstones, according to the panel.

The district also contains four already landmarked buildings — including the Boys High School on Marcy Avenue and the Girls High School on Nostrand Avenue.

Neighborhood preservationists, who have been rallying for the designation since 2007, say they're thrilled with the commission's vote after so many years.

"I'm so happy and relieved," said Claudette Brady, co-founder of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Society for Historic Preservation. "It's been tiring."



But the battle isn't over yet — the City Planning Commission and Council will both need to approve the district as well. Councilman Robert Cornegy Jr. (D-Bedford-Stuyvesant) says he will throw his support behind the measure.

"Designation of the Bedford Historic District was driven by the community and it will benefit the community for years to come," he said. "I'll be extremely pleased to offer my support for this item when it comes before the City Council."

If it is approved, the new designation would mean building owners in the area will have get the commission's okay for construction and alterations to their facades, and any new buildings have to adhere to the local aesthetic.

The district would join the neighborhood's Stuyvesant Heights Historic District — covering much of the area between Fulton and Hancock streets, Thompkins Avenue and Malcolm X Boulevard — which the city created in 1971 and expanded in 2013.

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Schools see green when it comes to recycling

Students, teachers team up in effort to make classrooms more environmentally friendly

Green teams are forming at elementary and high schools all over the country and reinventing the way their communities view waste and recycling.

Students and teachers build sheds and design bins to house hundreds of collected bottles and cans. They use their schools' daily announcements to share original songs and music videos about how to drop it in the bin.

Devoted teachers, such as Drew Johnson of Salem, Ill., are leading the way by advocating for the creation of these groups and empowering students to become leaders themselves.

An avid recycler, Johnson first introduced recycling to his school in 2010 and today he co-sponsors the school's Green Clean Recycling Team alongside teacher Kari Thackrey.

The duo oversees a group of 30 students who have rallied



Members of PS 154's Green Team received an award for their sustainable initiatives during a ceremony at the Flushing school last year.

the school and community to collect thousands of beverage containers to date.

Leaders are shining at schools nationwide, their success rewarded and measured by organized school recycling programs, such as PepsiCo's Recycle Rally, whose 1,500

participating schools recycled more than 51 million bottles and cans since the program kicked off in 2010.

School recycling programs provide structure and incentives for teachers and PTA parents so they can take recycling to the next level at their

schools. Recycle rally, for example, provides curriculum, guides and performance reports, plus multiple opportunities to earn supplies and rewards.

What you can do

In addition to helping your

kids recycle cans and bottles, there are several steps you can take at home to make the world a greener place, including:

- Look around the house for plastic containers that can be upcycled to create something new.
- Turn off lights when you leave a room to conserve energy.
- Plant a garden or tree in your backyard.
- Use both sides of a piece of paper when taking notes or creating artwork. Throw scrap paper in a recycling receptacle instead of a trash bin.
- Beautify your neighborhood by organizing a garbage pickup.

Learn more

For further information about recycle rally and to join the program, visit www.PepsiCoRecycling.com/Programs/RecycleRally.

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DIPLAMA PROGRAMS



IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME: This empty lot on Third Avenue between 59th and 60th streets could house a 676-seat school for District 20, but the School Construction Authority would have to build a school its size every year for the next 10 years to eliminate overcrowding in the district.

Photo by Jordan Rathkopf

'A' FOR EFFORT

Education Council: Lauded proposed school won't help overcrowding

BY DENNIS LYNCH

They're crammed if they do and crammed if they don't.

A proposed elementary school on the border of Bay Ridge and Sunset Park is a step closer to opening, but the new desks it could bring will hardly make a dent in one the most overcrowded district in the city, because the School Construction Authority just can't find suitable places to build, a school leader said.

"The bottom line is you can't build on what you don't have," said Laurie Windsor, who heads the District 20 Community Education Council. "If, right now, someone called me and said 'There's three sites. The owners are willing to sell,' and the city bought them, we'd have enough money to build. But we don't have the sites."

Officials hope to open a 676-seat primary and intermediate school on four lots along Third Avenue and 59th Street by 2019. A city environmental study recently gave the spot a passing grade, and now the Council must negotiate with the lots' owners, a local pol said.

"This study found this is a viable

site, so now the city can move forward with the purchase," said Councilman Carlos Menchaca (D-Sunset Park).

Area schools are the most overcrowded in the city, according to a 2015 Independent Budget Office study. The city has already committed cash for 3,000 new seats, but the Third Avenue site is the only one suitable in a district that spans Bay Ridge, Bensonhurst, and Borough Park and includes parts of Sunset Park and Kensington, Windsor said.

By 2019, the number of public school students living in the area will balloon from 40,000 to 48,000, according to education department figures. Officials predict district enrollment will hover around 150 percent of capacity regardless whether the proposed school opens, city records show.

Many schools have done away with teacher break rooms and arts classrooms to cope with the lack of space, despite the education department creating 5,700 seats over the last six years, Windsor said.

"We've built all these new seats over the years and we're still overcrowded," she said.

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Owl be home for X-mas

BY DENNIS LYNCH

Ho, ho, hoot!

Ridgites heralded the holidays with a Christmas tree lighting and some exceptional caroling at Owl's Head Park on Dec. 1. There was a jolly mood in the air at the riverside park on 68th Street, even though rain made for a chilly and wet night, according to one reveler.

"The rain didn't dampen spirits — people were out there

to watch the community light the tree, check out the decorations, and see Santa Claus," said Paul Cassone, who heads the Guild for Exceptional Children and lead the school's chorus during the lighting.

Around two dozen chorus members belted out the group's 15-song repertoire, which included traditional carols such as "Noel" and "Silent Night" and modern tunes such as "Jingle Bell Rock" and "Santa Claus

is Comin' to Town."

And Santa Claus did, in fact, make it to town — after a slight delay because of air traffic — to the delight of younger attendees, who gave him wish lists and posed for photos with the jolly gift giver.

Folks from the Bay Ridge Manor kept everyone warm with a steady supply of hot cocoa, and the Owl's Head Horticulture Group handed out cookies.

A JOLLY BASH: (Above) Izabella Powell gave her wish list directly to Kris Kringle himself at Owl's Head Park on Dec. 1 during the annual tree lighting. (Center) The Guild for Exceptional Children chorus capped off the fun with some sweet tunes. (Left) Catherine Zhang and Yihan Lee show their approval for the Yuletide event. Photos by Georgine Benvenuto

WHEN THEY'RE TUNING YOU OUT.

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UNTIL THEY BUCKLE UP.**



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DOUBLE D

Continued from cover

novel idea to use architecture and urban design to solve a real problem, and if we have those tools it doesn't make sense at all for the city to be talking eminent domain."

The feds have been pushing the city to stick the tank beneath Thomas Green Park and its beloved Double D pool, which they say is full of toxic soil and needs to be cleaned anyway.

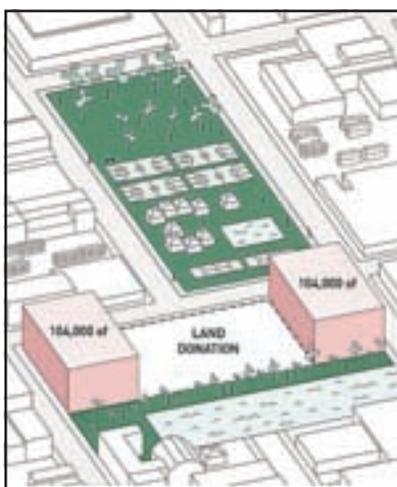
But the city claims that would put the swimming hole out of commission for up to nine years — far longer than the regular detox, and a prospect that many local swim fans have long railed against — while the above-ground mechanical equipment needed to run the tank would eat up valuable green space.

So in July, it pitched its own plan to requisition the land between Butler and Degraw streets and put the whole thing there instead.

Now, that land's owners are proposing an 11th-hour alternative. Alloy Development — which is poised to sign a 99-year lease on half that space — and Marino Mazzei, who already owns the rest — are offering to donate about half of each their lots, which they say the city could use to replace space lost at the playground.

Alloy claims the plan would save the city time and money — the eminent domain process would likely take three years and end up costing \$100 million, it predicts — while allowing it to pursue the lease without fear of losing the land.

"Our proposal offers a realistic collaborative approach that will save money for the city, create more park space for the community, and save time on the clean up," said company honcho Jared Della Valle. "Eminent



MY LAND IS YOUR LAND: Developer Alloy's proposal for donating part of its property to the city to avoid seizure. Alloy Development

domain should be used only as a last resort when stakeholders don't share the same goals. That is not the case here."

But the city's response so far is "thanks, but no tanks." The gratis green space — around the size of a football field — would not be enough to compensate for the parkland it will lose, and the proposal won't solve the pool problem, officials say.

"We remain concerned about siting the tanks under Thomas Greene Playground as doing so would significantly increase the amount of time that the playground and pool are closed to the public and would result in significantly less open space than the city's recommendation," said a joint statement from the parks and environmental protection agencies.

But the feds will ultimately decide where the tank goes, and Kelly hopes the developers' pitch gets its due.

"We need some real urban design, some real solutions, and not just the city blocking everything," she said.

WATCHTOWER

Continued from cover

through with the plan.

The religious outfit is also offering up its iconic Columbia Heights headquarters — the one with the red neon "Watchtower" sign — and a 10-story residential building nearby.

The giant nerve center covers two blocks, but is only zoned for manufac-

turing use right now.

It will be up to the new owner whether or not to keep the building's iconic sign, which has been informing locals of the time and temperature for more than 40 years — our online poll found 76 percent of respondents want it to stay.

The group has been selling off much of its Dumbo and Heights real estate since 2010, after deciding to relocate its operation upstate by 2017.



SALE OF A LIFETIME: Watchtower Realty announced it will sell 85 Jay St., along with two other properties, on Dec. 3. The block-wide lot is currently a parking lot. Photo by Louise Wateridge

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Yeah, it's your birthday

Standing O is sending oodles of flowers to **Rose Barberi**, who recently celebrated her 99th birthday. The Brooklyn native turned the magic number on Nov. 14 and celebrated at the **Dugan Amico Senior Center** with friends, family, and a host of good wishes sent by local pols.

Rose received proclamations from Assemblywoman **Jo Anne Simon** (D-Carroll Gardens), State Sen. **Daniel Squadron** (D-Carroll Gardens), and a special card from **President Obama**.

Carol Reid-Rembert, director at the senior center, told Standing O, that Rose still resides in the house where she was born on DeGraw Street and is as independent as they come.

"She sits on her stoop and holds court with neighbors," Carol said. "She is very well known in the community."

Rose was blessed with two children **Joseph** and **Marie**. Sadly, her son passed away, but her daughter Marie is devoted to her, and so are her kids.

"Rose enjoys time with her four grandchildren and nine great grandchildren, and of course with her friends here at the center," Carol said. "We are really blessed to have Rose in our lives."

*Dugan Amico Senior Center
[378 Court St. at Carroll Street in Carroll Gardens, (718) 596-1956].*

ing O pal Thomas so he could augment the organization's soup kitchen.

Standing O and Carmine Santa Maria say, "*Mile Grazia.*"

MARINE PARK

An epic in the making

Three cheers to **Yitzchok Saftlas**, who celebrated the launch of his new release, "So What's the Bottom Line," last week at the Jewish Community Council of Marine Park. The tome provides 76 proven marketing tips and techniques for building your business and personal brand. It's perfect for salespeople, marketers, and seasoned executives, or for entrepreneurs just starting out, and offers a clear direction guaranteed to garner results.

The book is now available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and bookstores nationwide.

NYPD gets a high five from Be Proud

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Special thanks to **Raisa Chernina**, founder of the **Be Proud Foundation**. The ex-Soviet says red, white, and blue are her favorite colors and every year she puts her words to the test and hosts the **Police Appreciation Luncheon** for our men in blue.



The New York Police Department Pipes and Drums of the **Emerald Society** opened the 10th annual ceremonies at the **Galaxy Restaurant** on Dec. 4. **Jessica Gorbenko** presented **Sgt. Anthony Caggiano** of the 60th Precinct Community Affairs Team unit with a special thanks and an award for helping her kick a drug habit. **Lieutenant O'Neil** from the 60th Precinct accepted an award for promoting NYPD's anti-breast cancer campaign. **Anna Malkina-Shumayer** and Officers **Andrey Vishnevskiy** and **Sammy Shaya** delivered treats back to the precinct for those who couldn't make the event. As a holiday treat, specialty cakes made by **Cherry Hill** were given to all the officers to take back to their precincts.

Be Proud Foundation is the city's only non-profit and non-political organization to organize cop-appreciation luncheons since 2005 for the Finest from Brooklyn precincts, the South Brooklyn Police Department, and One Police Plaza. Their goal is to express the Russian-speaking community's gratitude to our heroes "for putting their lives on the line of duty for our safety," said Standing O pal Raisa.

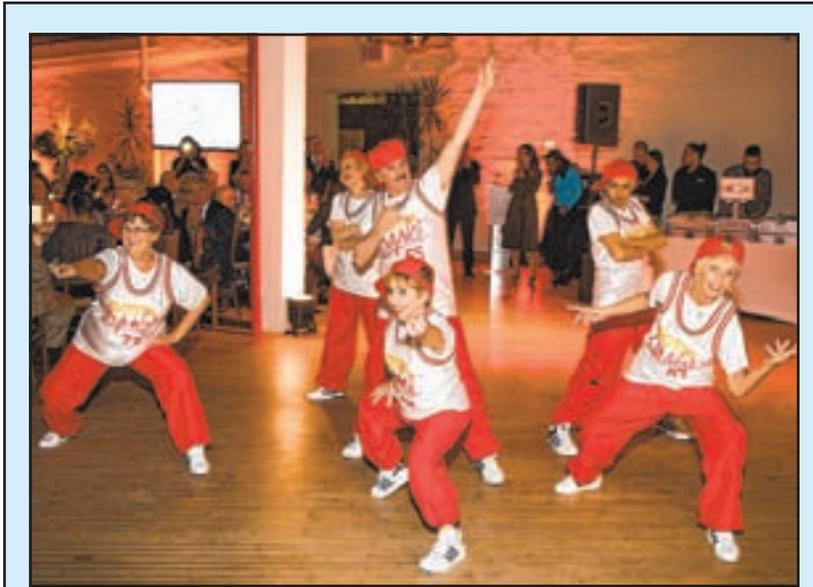
Standing O is proud of you Raisa, for all you do for the community, too.

Be Proud Foundation [2805 E. 26th St. at Shore Parkway in Sheepshead Bay, (718) 788-7773].

BOROUGH-WIDE

Conga line!

They are "freezin' for a reezin'." Calling all skaters, dancers, cancer



GOTTA DANCE: A surprise performance by Gotta Dance Originals, a hip-hop senior dance troupe, closed out the Cobble Hill Health Center Gala on Nov. 17. Scott G. Morris

Here's to 'hip' health awardees

COBBLE HILL

Standing O is sending out congrats to **Joseph Jhota**, who was feted at the annual Cobble Hill Health Center Gala on Nov. 17 along with Patient Care Associates president and Guest of Honor **Lenny Tanzer**, Partnership in Health Care Award-winner **Jack Basch**, Volunteer of the Year **Anneke Berken**, and director of Mark Morris Dance for Parkinson's Disease director and Special Recognition awardee **David Leventhal**.

But the big event of the night was the closing performance by **Gotta Dance Originals**, a senior dance troupe composed of 59-to-80-year-olds who really know how to get down and spin it around.

fighters or anyone else who wants to have a good time and be part of a sanctioned **Guinness Book of World Records** attempt. Join the **American Cancer Society's Relay For Life and TEAL** as they attempt to break the record for the World's Largest Conga Line on Ice on Dec. 12.

The current record is 353 participants — hey, we can beat that! So start shaking your bootay. Registration begins at 10 am. Participation is free with weekend admission of \$15 and skate rentals are \$6.

The first 200 skaters to register with Relay for Life or Teal will receive a bracelet for free admission to the skating session and a free skate rental.

Be there and make it count on Dec. 12 at 10 am.

Nearly 300 guests attended and raised a record amount of gelt to help fund the center's Life Enrichment Program, which offers neighborhood trips, art sessions, a horticultural program, and dance and music classes. Through the contributions of donors and the countless hours of volunteers, the Life Enrichment Program improves the daily lives of the center's residents.

"Getting to know the residents has not only enriched my life, it saved my life," said Anneke Berken, the volly of the year.

Standing O is sending out hip-hop hoorays to all the recipients.

Cobble Hill Health Center [380 Henry St. at Warren Street in Cobble Hill, (718) 855-6789].

Prospect Park Lakeside [171 East Dr. in Prospect Park].

BOROUGH-WIDE

Paying thanks forward

Standing O colleague and "**Big Screecher**" columnist **Carmine Santa Maria** asked that I give a shout out to do-gooders **Giovanni and Salvatore Valente**. The PS 215 students reached out to **Thomas Neve**, founder and president of **Reaching Out Community Services**, to start a fund-raising drive for the food pantry. The big-hearted boys then went store to store and rang the bells of friends and neighbors for donations. Through dogged determination the pair raised more than \$340, which they presented to Stand-

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- Second level contains a full dining room, a large living room, a half-bath, eat-in kitchen, and a large rear deck.



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Our House of the Week, situated in tranquil Georgetown, is real estate sirloin for residents and investors. A formal dining area and an eat-in kitchen accommodate busy families.

- Three bedrooms and a new bathroom sprawl the third level.
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 - New heat and hot water



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 - Private parking.
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The neighborhood borders Paerdegat Basin ("horse gate" in Dutch), a saltwater, 160-acre wetland area with a mile-long channel emptying into Jamaica Bay — a magnificent habitat lush with groves of honeylocusts, smooth sumac and ailanthus trees, of "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" fame. Several species of birds and animals call the woodlands home and the waterfront promenade is perfect for summer strolls.

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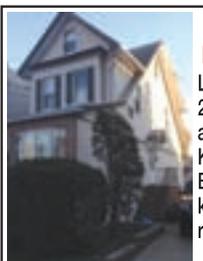
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OLATOYE

Continued from page 2

rolling out next year.

The public housing buildings' walls are "constructed like fortresses," she said, so in-unit internet is tricky.

She tentatively described the plan — dictated and funded by the feds and Mayor DeBlasio, not the housing authority — as "an interesting thing," but said she was more excited in seeing "low touch, easy to install" solutions like community group Red Hook Initiative's grassroots network around the nabe and the city-wide citizen-run NYC Mesh network, which could be used to bring common areas online.

Cleaning up

Residents at some of the city's most dangerous projects — including Brooklyn's Bushwick, Boulevard, Ingersoll, and Tompkins houses — have offered positive feedback on the city's multi-million-dollar scheme to crack down on crime in those buildings, Olatoye said, but admitted there is still a long way to go.

"When you talk to residents in those developments and they [say] there is literally light where there was none before, I think that means something," she said.

Olatoye claimed there is only so much the authority can do as the landlord to reduce crime — it must ensure doors are fixed and lights are on,

but the law enforcement must come up with a more comprehensive strategy for policing the properties, and residents also have to do their part, she said.

"People have to stop breaking things and throwing things out the window," said Olatoye.

One problem is that the authority's employees leave work at 4 pm when it is still light, she said. Another is that the federal government doesn't provide cash to beef up security, so buildings have to rely on funds from Council members for more secure doors or new security cameras.

Where there is smoke

Olatoye says she broadly backs the goals of the feds' recent proposal to ban smoking inside public housing buildings nation-wide, but it will only work if it comes with money and support to help residents quit and enforce the ban.

"What are you going to do, sniff people's apartments? With no additional resources?" she said.

Olatoye said around 14 percent of public housing residents are smokers — around the same as the rest of the population — and that previous programs to make buildings smoke-free have worked best when they are driven by the residents themselves.

"They are successful when there is a peer to peer accountability structure where residents say, 'we don't want to have smoking in our buildings,'" she said.

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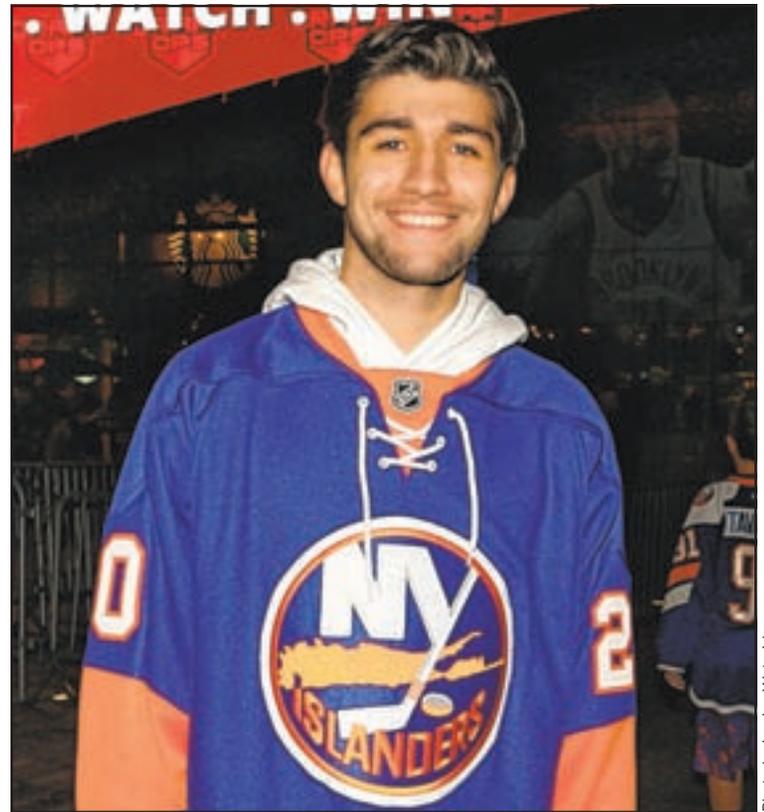


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A gift-wrap station in a corner of the home that is seldom used can make wrapping presents any time of the year easier and more enjoyable.

Create your own area for gift wrapping

Nearly as much energy goes into wrapping gifts as purchasing them. Some people excel at wrapping gifts, while others do not enjoy the task at all. Part of the trouble with gift-wrapping is the room and tools needed to wrap all of those holiday treasures. But a gift-wrap station in a corner of the home that is seldom used can make wrapping presents any time of the year easier and more enjoyable:

- Find a place to store gift wrap and the tools needed to wrap gifts. Many people find the back of a closet door works perfectly.

- Install wire hanger racks so the gift wrap tubes can be stored vertically along the surface of the door.

- Install a folding shelf on a hinge, and use that shelf to do your wrapping. Fold the shelf up when it is not needed and secure it with a latch at the top.

- Hang hooks to store tape and scissors. Attach the scissors to the hook with a string so they won't go missing.

- A basket tucked nearby can house bows and ribbons so that they are easily stored until needed.

Having the wrapping station so accessible also allows you to take inventory of supplies and restock when necessary.

Has gift wrapping become a lost art?

Have we become a society that is too busy for gift wrap? When a birthday arrives or the holidays come around in full force, where do most people turn? To the ultra-convenient gift bag, that's where.

Before you eschew wrapping paper for a gift bag this holiday season, think about all of the advantages to spending some time and reacquainting yourself with the art of gift wrapping. Here are some reasons to save the gift bag for another time:

Wrapping can be green, too. Wrapping paper can be reused if it is carefully removed from a gift. You also can create your own wrapping paper by decorating brown postal paper with a rubber stamp or having children color their own special murals. Don't overlook newsprint as wrapping as well.

Paper is more cost-effective. Although there are scores of discount stores that sell low-priced gift bags, often the quality isn't the same, and the handles could tear after one or two uses. Wrapping paper per inch is definitely more affordable than gift bags, particularly when it's on sale.

Wrapping paper lets you be creative. Cover a box with a patchwork of different paper scraps, choose to stagger colors of paper with boxes towered one on top of another, or tie on the biggest bow you can find.

Paper is traditional. Look back to the classic stories of Yuletide and you are bound to find images of Santa Claus pulling wrapped boxes out of his enormous gift sack. Also think about how department stores used to (and some still do) offer complimentary gift wrapping.

Wrapped gifts travel better. When carrying your bounty of gifts to friends and family, carefully wrapped boxes tend to stand up to travel better than gift bags. No one wants to receive a gift bag that has been wrinkled and crushed into some amorphous shape. Plus, wilted tissue paper can be off-putting.



Easy ideas for holiday wreaths

Wreaths are synonymous with the holiday season, and they can range from intricate to simple to flashy to rustic. Creating festive wreaths does not necessarily require a lot of skill, and wreaths can be fashioned from a variety of different materials.

The first step to crafting wreaths is to gather the foundation pieces. This usually involves a sturdy material that will serve as the wreath round. It can be vine, foam, branches, or even wire. You'll also need decorative items that fit the theme of your wreath. These may be berries, ornaments, ribbons, bows, and other trinkets that will be attached to the wreath. Florist wire and tape can be used to attach the ornaments to the wreath.

'Say cheese' wreath

Purchase a premade evergreen wreath or wrap boughs of pine around a frame to make your

own. Glue or tie on small wooden frames with photos of the family to the wreath. Fill in the barren spots with bows and ornaments.

Fruitful wreath

Instead of an evergreen wreath, create something festive and edible. Fruit and vegetables in vibrant colors can be used to fashion a wreath. Use picks or wire to attach oranges, lemons, limes, clementines, and any other produce desired to a foam wreath. Use leaves to fill in sparse areas and a ribbon to hang the wreath.

Holly vine wreath

Purchase a plain grapevine wreath and decorate it with sprigs of holly leaves and stems with berries. Simple and festive, this wreath should take only a few minutes to make and then hang.

Metallic wreath

Add a glamorous touch to an evergreen wreath with faux fruit

and pine cones that you paint with glimmering metallic colors. Interperse items in gold, copper, and silver for an eye-catching piece that can adorn any spot in your home. Add a few twinkling lights to reflect off of the metallic elements to add even more appeal.

Bells or glass ornament wreath

Use flexible wire to string a wreath of metal bells or glass ornaments together in a ring shape. Bells not only look nice, but also lend a gentle twinkling sound anytime the door is opened.

Floral wreath

Make a fresh flower wreath from a florist's wreath and fresh blooms. Soak the foam wreath in water according to the packaged directions. Trim flower stems (carnations are durable) and insert the stems into the wreath. Attach a bow to the bottom of the wreath and then hang.



Creating festive wreaths does not necessarily require a lot of skill, and wreaths can be fashioned from a variety of different materials.

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HOLIDAY GUIDE

Energy-saving decorations

The holiday season allows people to transform their homes into wonderlands of lights, garlands, and poinsettias. Each family has its own holiday traditions, and decorations are a part of many of those traditions.

Decorations might be awe-inspiring, but those that include lights often lead to substantially higher energy bills. Fortunately, there are ways for homeowners, whether they prefer subtle displays or more over-the-top arrangements, to save money and still celebrate the holiday season in style.

Switch to more efficient lights. A great way to ensure holiday displays consume less energy is to change the bulbs being strung. Incandescent lights can use 80 to 90 percent more energy than light-emitting diode lights. Gradually replace older light strands with newer, energy-efficient lights. Not only do these require less energy, but they also can last longer than incandescent bulbs, meaning you won't have to replace them as frequently as more traditional bulbs. Furthermore, lower wattage usage means you can attach more strands of lights together

safely.

Use timers. Timers can be set to turn lights on and off at specific times, ensuring lights aren't turning on during the daytime or being left on into the night by forgetful homeowners. Timers also are a good safety precaution. A dark house that is normally lit up can advertise to thieves that no one is home. When lights turn on with a timer, it will create the illusion that it is business as usual in your residence.

Use homemade decorations. You also can save energy and money by recycling materials into holiday décor. Trim branches from trees and use them in vases for an instant wintry look. Prune an evergreen on your property and make your own wreath with some wire and twine. Shop yard sales for gently used decorations that still have years of utility left. Sew ornaments from scraps of fabric or clothing that no longer fits. Each of these ideas reduces reliance on manufactured decorations that consume energy during production and fuel while being transported from factories to store shelves.

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Beep, beep! Adams airs mayoral run on BP Radio

Our sister publication's Brooklyn Paper Radio has only been on the air for a week, but it is already bringing you sensational scoops ("A Brooklyn Paper Radio Exclusive: Adams says he's running for mayor," online Dec. 8).

The new webcast — streamed live every Monday at 4 pm from our Downtown office (home of bold bulletins juiced from loose lips!) — was the forum of choice for Brooklyn's chief executive officer to declare his candidacy for 2021 and predict a two-term administration at City Hall. Online readers were split about an Adams mayoralty:

Adams has been admirably pro development and anti-NIMBY. He's also not afraid to criticize the NYPD. I think he'd have my support.

Mike from Williamsburg

Delusions of grandeur from an incompetent hack who faced no opposition in his last race. Next?

Mike Curatore from Carroll Gardens

Borough President Adams, you cannot wait until 2021. We need you now. If you do not run in 2017, you will have missed your opportunity. DeBlasio is a one-term mayor and if Borough President Adams doesn't run, then someone else like Scott Stringer will run and win.

Maria R. from Sunset Park

Well that's one idiot down then. Just a few thousand more to go.

The Truth from The Lies

Adams talks about geese in Prospect Park and with DiBlasio it's horses in Central Park. Is wildlife really the issue?

Carl R. from D.C.

Borough President Adams, you've shown leadership and courage and

SOUND OFF TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS AND COMMENTS FROM OUR READERS

are a huge improvement over my buffalo of a neighbor. There is no time like the present. Run. DeBlasio is incompetent, compromised, and more vulnerable than the conventional wisdom says. Cuomo may want Hakeem Jeffries, but he is smart and knows being under the governor's thumb isn't worth it. Plus he has a safe seat in Congress and can stay in Washington a long time if that's his preference. There will be others for 2017, but Adams would be a great choice if he starts now.

Mustache Pete from Windsor Terrace

I'm a dedicated Democrat and previously couldn't imagine voting otherwise. An Adams candidacy would be enough to drive me to vote Republican.

Michael from Bay Ridge

Borough presidents generally don't become mayor. In the 117 years since the Office of Borough President was created, only Robert Wagner and David Dinkins managed it, and they were both Manhattan beeps. Outer-borough beeps can't get enough votes outside of their own boroughs, and Adams probably can't get more than single-digit percentages of Brooklynites to vote him for mayor. He hasn't got a chance of being mayor. He probably won't even get a second term as beep.

Sean F. from Bensonhurst

Chapter n' verse

To the editor,

Dear Councilman Steve Levin (D-Brooklyn Heights), it is 1:44 am and I cannot sleep because I am so worried over the proposed deconstruction of the Brooklyn Heights Library. The air we breathe in the city is already carrying enough toxic chemicals to kill us, and the proposed building at 280 Cadman Plaza West would be an additional health danger.

We need to consider the strong, street-level winds while designing this building, its location being adjacent to the windiest corner in the city — Montague and Court streets, according to the New York Times. Chemical hazards caused by construction are often airborne and can appear as dusts, fumes, mists, vapors or gases. Exposure usually occurs by inhalation, although some airborne hazards may settle on and be absorbed through skin. The silica dust is not screened out by netting, putting the elderly and young children at risk from the increased toxicity.

There are major highways already contributing to the poor air quality of Brooklyn Heights.

On the human side, the Brooklyn Heights Library is packed with children, young adults, and others every minute it is open. When the doors open there is already a crush of people ready to walk in. It is the second busiest library in Brooklyn. The interim library proposed at Our Lady of Lebanon is one-sixth the size of our library, and further away from the projects, subways, patrons, and schools.

This library is our community center and it would be a hardship on Brooklyn Heights residents to lose it. Councilman Levin, please don't give your consent to the destruction of our wonderful, valuable, second-home library.

Justine Swartz from Brooklyn Heights

Save the elephants

To the editor,

I am generally a supporter of the National Rifle Association, but I find poachers and trophy hunters, whom the organization supports, reprehensible. I can understand killing certain animals for food, or killing bears and raccoons who overpopulate or invade people's homes, but this is not the case with the African nor Asian elephants, which cannot be cross bred.

It is high time this cruel practice ceases to exist and we allow the species to reproduce by not invading its natural habitats. If we continue our ways, both species of elephants will soon be extinct and a distant memory.

The elephant used to be a symbol of Republicans and the political right, which embrace and endorse hunters, whether it is justified or not. It will now take the political left to save the noble elephant.

Elliott Abosh from Brighton Beach

Dumbfounded DOT

To the editor,

I cannot believe how long this debacle at the Gowanus-Belt merge has gone on. Numerous times I have been cut off at the last second by cars, through no fault of their own, finally realizing where to be to exit for the Belt. The signage is basically nonexistent until the immediate point of the exit. Before that is some worn out slop painted on the road itself as to where you should be for the Belt exit.

I cannot believe there have not been more accidents at this site. Where is the hypocritical Depart-

ment of Transportation with its Vision Zero? Oh, that's right, if it doesn't concern bicycles or ways of causing more traffic congestion they are really dumbfounded, but more dumb than founded.

This project or whatever they are trying to achieve at this spot was supposed to have been completed by the end of August.

Richie Hecht from Bay Ridge

Write on!

To the editor,

Surveys reveal that the "letters to the editor" section is one of the most widely read and popular of any newspaper. Weekly newspapers, such as this one, offer readers a chance to speak out. It helps to have a snappy introduction, good hook, be timely, precise, and have an interesting or different viewpoint to increase your odds of being published. Many papers welcome letters commenting on their own editorials, articles or previously published letters to the editor.

We continue to be fortunate to live in one of the few remaining free societies with a wealth of information sources available. Sadly, most American cities and suburbs are down to one local daily or weekly newspaper. Newspapers have to deal with increasing costs, reduced advertising revenues, and declining readership. I continue to be grateful that the Courier affords its readers the opportunity to express their views and differing opinions on issues of the day. Thanks to you ordinary citizens have the freedom to comment on the actions and legislation of elected officials and more.

In the marketplace of ideas let us hope there continues to be room for all newspapers, and let us thank those few brave souls who are willing to take on the establishment and powerful special interest groups in "Sound Off to the Editor." They fill a valuable niche on the information highway.

Please join me along with your neighbors in reading your favorite daily and local weekly community newspapers. Patronize their advertisers; they provide the revenues necessary to keep them in business. Let them know you saw their advertisement. This is what helps keep our neighbors employed, the local economy growing, and provides space on a daily and weekly basis for your favorite or not-so-favorite letter writers.

Larry Penner from Great Neck, New York

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

Submit letters to: Vince DiMiceli, Editor, Community Newspaper Group, 1 MetroTech Center North, Brooklyn, NY 11201, or e-mail to editorial@cnglocal.com. Please include your address and telephone number for so we can confirm you sent the letter. We reserve the right to edit all correspondence, which becomes the property of Courier Life Publications.

Why do we still have horse-drawn carriages?

Stella, Caesar, Blondie, Chris, Doreen, Charlie, Pumpkin, Tickle, and Oreo are just some of the names of New York horses that have been killed or injured while working.

Working, really? That would imply choice, right? It's really no different than an elephant in chains in the circus. Like the decorated elephant, carriage-horses have more pain than pomp in their day.

And why is politics getting in the way of their release from this prolonged bondage? Which Council members are saying "Neigh!" to their redemption?

We're going to make a naughty list below. These council members should only get coal in their socks this holiday season because they are standing in the way of humane treatment of our horses. But first, here's some context.

In 2013, when candidate Bill DeBlasio was running



POLITICAL SPIN CYCLE

Tom Allon

for mayor, he vowed to ban horse-drawn carriages in New York City. On "Day One," he said. Well, now it's past "Day 700."

New York has the highest carriage-horse accident rate

in the country. Other cities, like Palm Beach, Santa Fe, Las Vegas, Toronto, and Salt Lake City, have banned this antiquated practice.

Sure, it was lovely to have a horse take you for a ride when we needed the transportation. But why is it necessary now? Should a horse have no access to pastures, have a nine-hour workday, ride between SUVs and taxis honking and blowing exhaust fumes in their faces? Should flight animals that get "spooked" by loud sounds be the victims of an industry that insists upon their back-breaking work so that they can make a living?

There are other ways for them to make a living, and NYClass, an animal rights organization, has come up with a healthy alternative to the ugly and cruel industry. Electric cars. Awesome, fancy, cool-looking electric cars can take tourists on rides through Central Park and the congested streets of Manhattan.

The big problem in all of this is that we have political gamesmanship interfering with what is really a humanitarian issue. In 2013, DeBlasio repeatedly and emphatically said he would solve this issue.

DeBlasio blames the Council. Well, he's partially right, because he does need their votes to ban this industry, but it seems that if he pushed harder he could have secured the 26 votes needed to pass the law to ban the horse-drawn carriages in New York City.

But good news may be on the way. On Nov. 25 DeBlasio proposed a compromise that would limit the carriage horses to Central Park, keeping them off the city's streets. He has also proposed building stables inside the park so that the horses don't have to walk the 1-2 miles back to their stables in Hell's Kitchen. And finally, this compromise suggests reducing the number of working horses from more than 200

to about 70.

Just to be sure, the Council members must once again hear our voices — we do care for all beings.

So we're naming the City Council "Neighsayer." Let's put pressure on them for this new proposal, which is not perfect but a heck of a lot more humane.

In Brooklyn: Robert Cornegy; Rafael Espinal; Daneek Miller; Jumaane Williams.

In Queens: Costa Constantinides; Elizabeth Crowley; Karen Koslowitz; Rory Lancman.

In Manhattan: Corey Johnson.

In the Bronx: Andy King

Like Mahatma Gandhi once said: "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

Tom Allon is president of City & State NY. Reach him at tallon@cityandstateny.com. Rebecca Cohen is a lifelong "Horse Hero."



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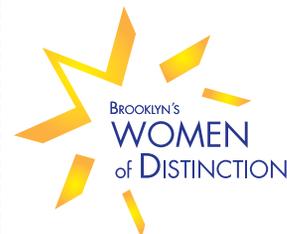
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No reason for fear after San Bernadino

Have we really all become convinced that we are under constant terrorist threat?

The New York Times seems to think so. In the wake of the San Bernardino shootings, it ran an article titled, "I Think About It Daily": Life in a Time of Mass Shootings."

But is this true?

Seems to me that since 9-11, we've learned we're made of, if not sterner stuff, then at least more rational stuff. We know that violence is random and rare.

Yes, rare. Especially here.

Let's talk about local crime for a sec.

In New York City, as in most of the country, crime peaked around 1993 and has been going down pretty steadily since then. In 1990, there were 2,245 murders in the city. Last year the number here was 333.

That's an amazing drop.

But what about this very instant? Isn't crime suddenly "surging," as the headlines suggest?

The Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law



RHYMES WITH CRAZY

Lenore Skenazy

crunched the numbers we're hearing about. It found that while the murder rate is projected to go up 11 percent in America's 30 largest cities this year — a stat that does sound alarming — the numbers are still far lower than 10 or even five years ago. Here in New York, the projected number of murders by year-end is 357.

That is sad, of course. But as the report notes, "in abso-

lute terms, murder rates are so low in many cities now that even an increase or decrease of just a few occurrences can cause a large change in percentage terms."

For instance: If one person in a million dies from a deadly spider bite and the next year two people die this weird, icky way, that's a 100 percent increase. But it's not as if deadly spiders are taking over America. (Yet!)

The picture gets clearer if we think in terms of deaths per 100,000.

"In 1990, there were 29.3 murders per 100,000 residents," according to the report, which cited FBI and police statistics. "In 2000, there were 13.8 murders per 100,000. Now there are 9.9 per 100,000."

So while the "Murder Rate Up!" makes for a paper-selling headline, "Americans Far Safer Than They Were 20, 10, and Even Five Years Ago!" is just as true.

When I spent 14 years at the New York Daily News, my editor would sometimes remind me that people read the paper because, "They want to know

what can kill them."

But that isn't precisely the case. No one is writing thumbsuckers about the fear of heart disease. Only the most shocking and unpredictable deaths get this kind of treatment. And these reinforce the idea that simply by stepping out of your home — or, god forbid, letting your child step out of the home — death beckons.

The Times chose to reinforce the idea that not only we are all panicking about mass shootings, but that this dread is normal and perhaps even sensible after the California and Colorado murders. It did this by surveying the public with an online question: "How often, if ever, do you think about the possibility of a shooting in your daily life?"

Naturally, the people who answered are those for whom this question resonates — many of them apparently crippled by an all-consuming fear of random violence.

"I would say I think about the possibility of a shooting in my life regularly," wrote one 15-year-old.

The parents who responded

sounded even more terrified. They wrote things like, "The oldest of my three children is in kindergarten. They have lockdown drills. I imagine the fear and chaos of a school shooting. The children, my son, the life and love that can be taken away. How will I live with myself if something happens to them? I'm so scared."

And another:

"Is this the day? Will a shooter pick my daughter's school because it only has one access road? What will she be thinking as she cowers in a closet? Or under a desk? Will she be crying for me?"

But the odds overwhelmingly say she will simply go about her day and take her math test.

Crime is at historic lows. We are lucky to be living in such safe times. Until we embrace reality instead of the headlines, we will not be able to enjoy life or let our kids outside.

That is a tragedy.

Lenore Skenazy is a keynote speaker and the author and founder of the book and blog *Free-Range Kids*.

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WHAT TO DO WHERE TO GO 24 SEVEN Flip service

ARTS ■ DINING ■ MOVIES ■ ENTERTAINMENT



Judge not: The players in Dzieci's "Fool's Mass" have a hard time agreeing about anything, but the group coalesces beautifully when it comes time to sing the hymns the late pastor taught them. Photo by Stefano Giovannini

'Fool's Mass' a comedic take on Catholic liturgy

By Dennis Lynch

This liturgy is not to be taken literally.

Medieval village idiots are forced to cobble together their own Christmas Mass following their beloved pastor's death in Dzieci theatre group's "Fool's Mass" production coming to three Brooklyn venues in December. The play is part comedy and part worship, but it is completely immersive — the village idiots are illiterate and need the audience's help getting through the service, the show's director said.

"There is no fourth wall," said Matthew Mitler. "We seat people, give them sheets of music, and ask them to pray with us. But we're village idiots — we can't read — so the audience helps us with readings, filling out the nativity scene, and in the end, it's something we've all done together."

The play starts as soon as audience members walk in the door, where they

will find a cast of physically and mentally handicapped peasants patiently waiting for their priest, who took them in and trained them as a choir, to start Mass, Mitler said. The choir finds out the plague has claimed the priest, but they refuse to go home, and instead decide to put together their own Mass — except no one can agree how to do it, he said.

Hijinks abound as the group quarrels over how to break bread for communion and what rituals happen when. The actors improvise much of the dialogue and action, making use of the altar and fixtures available wherever they are performing, Mitler said.

Each fool has his or her moment in the spotlight, whether that is telling a hastily thrown-together story of Jesus's birth or, in some cases, sabotaging the rest of the group over disagreements. But singing the hymns their late pastor taught them unifies

the group, and with help from the audience, they eventually get through the Mass.

Mitler and his Dzieci colleagues wrote "Fool's Mass" in 1998 to explore the meaning behind the rituals of worship.

"We asked 'What is a Catholic Mass? What is it on a deep level?'" he said. "We thought the best way to approach that was to do it from the perspective of complete innocence, without much of a goal in mind, sort of as a child."

"Fool's Mass" is fiction, but after writing the play, Mitler discovered that some European medieval villages held yearly festivals to mock the local bishop and the Catholic Church as a way of easing frustrations with the powerful religious authorities that dominated Europe at the time. Mitler incorporated one of the songs people sang at those festivals into the play, but said "Fool's Mass" is anything but a mockery.

"It's not about making fun of anything,"

he said. "It's trying to explore and find the deepest levels of human nature."

Dzieci has performed the play at churches, religious conferences, and homes for both mentally and physically handicapped people. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, even if some folks were skeptical at the outset, Mitler said.

"People have all kinds of ideas," he said. "We've had people angry at the beginning of the play, but by the end, they're hugging us."

"Fool's Mass" at St. Johns-St. Mathew-Emanuel Lutheran Church (283 Prospect Ave. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope) Dec. 13 at 7 pm; at Seeds Brooklyn (617 Vanderbilt Ave. between St. Marks Avenue and Bergen Street in Prospect Heights) Dec. 18 at 7 pm and 9 pm; at Sure We Can (219 McKibbin St. between Bushwick Avenue and McKibbin Court in Bushwick) Dec. 19 at 7 pm. www.dziecitheatre.org. \$10.

SWEET STUFFED

Fill up on baked goods at cookie competition

By Lauren Gill

Time to get into the kitchen! Brooklynites can go on a Santa-style cookie binge on Dec. 13, when an amateur baking competition hits the Royal Palms Shuffleboard Club in Gowanus. The event's organizer guarantees that the spread will satisfy any sweet tooth.

"You're going to see some interesting cookies, some weird cookies, some yummy cookies, and maybe even some s----- cookies," said Matt Timms, the mastermind behind this weekend's Cookie Takedown competition.

The Bushwick resident started organizing the Takedown food frenzies 15 years ago, and has been pitting kitchen warriors against each other ever since.

Thirty dough punchers will bake mass batches of their most original cookies in hopes of securing the Takedown title, and the prize of kitchen appliances to help their next baking endeavor.

But the guests will be the real winners of the cookie extravaganza. A \$20 dollar ticket buys attendees all of the delectable discs they can stomach. Their only responsibility will be voting for their favorite at the event's conclusion.

Winning recipes in previous years have included toffee peanut butter cup, a Sriracha cookie, and one very special sea-salt, bitter orange, and lavender creation, according to Timms.



Om-nom-nom-nom: Matt Timms, the host of the Cookie Takedown on Dec. 13, says it is the perfect time of year to chow down on cookies.

Photo by Jason Speakman

The cookie commander said that even though the event takes place during the holiday season, bakers are discouraged from baking bland butter biscuits and throwing some red and green sprinkles on top.

"Holiday cookies basically suck," he said.

Instead, he hopes attendees will embrace the holiday spirit in a different way — by devouring all the

sweets they can swallow.

"The holidays are about gorging and eat cookies," said Timms. "There's no other time of year I would want to do it."

Cookie Takedown at the Royal Palms Shuffleboard Club [514 Union St. between Third Avenue and Nevins Street in Gowanus, (347) 223-4410, www.thetakedowns.com]. Dec. 13, noon-2 pm. \$20.



No better letter: Paul Basile, right, and a Gowanus Alliance member posed in front of the Kentile Floors sign "K" at the group's holiday party in 2014.

Photo by Jason Speakman

Red-letter day

Getting up close to the giant Kentile Floor 'K'

By Colin Mixson

It's a special K!

On Dec. 11, Brooklynites will be able to pose and party with the single most iconic letter in all of Brooklyn the 66-year-old, 20-foot-high "K" from the Kentile Floors sign that once beckoned to F and G train riders with the promise of affordable bath and kitchen tiling. The stewards of the legendary "K" hope that the sheer spectacle of the massive letter will inspire Gowanus residents to join their struggle to restore and re-install the aging emblem.

"We invite our community and friends to get up close with the 'K' from the Kentile sign, with hopes that as we move forward with restoration and relocation that people will be more willing to get involved in some way," said Paul Basile, president and founder of the Gowanus Alliance, a confederation of neighborhood businesses.

The Alliance took stewardship of the severely dilapidated sign in the summer of 2014, after it was deemed too hazardous to remain towering eight stories above the streets of Brooklyn. The alliance worked with contractors to safely dismantle and store the sign in a 13th Street warehouse until a new home for the legendary logo could be secured, according to Basile. Had the alliance not stepped in, Brooklyn's "Kentile Floors" sign could have been consigned to the garbage heap.

"There was an identical sign in Chicago, and that ended up in the scrap yard," said Basile.

For its "Christmas with the K" party, the Gowanus Alliance re-assembled the seven parts of the titular letter, and will encourage people to take pictures beside the enormous letterform. In addition to the hallmark "K," the event promises lots of free barbecue and an opportunity to carouse with neighbors and local business owners.

"There will be some food, local businesses get to say hello to each other again, and hopefully new people will come in," said Basile.

The Gowanus Alliance is currently toying with the idea of installing the Kentile Floors sign at the Fran Brady Under the Tracks Playground.

"Christmas with the K" at the Gowanus Alliance [135 13th St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (718) 576-3108, www.gowanusaliance.org]. Dec. 11 at 5 pm. Free.

The 'Messiah' returns!

By Lauren Gill

Their sound is gone out across the land!

A Marine Park church will once again ring with a joyful noise on Dec. 13, when a full orchestra and chorus join together to perform Handel's "Messiah." The Good Shepherd Church has presented the Christmas classic each winter for the last 19 years, making the concert a beloved neighborhood tradition.

"It's just a magnificent way of beginning the Christmas season," said Michael Fontana, the music director of the church since 1991.

Fontana was inspired to launch the annual show by the strength of the church's chorus.

"After the first year of concerts I thought we have a magnificent church choir here," said Fontana, "and as a means of ... pushing them musically, I approached them about performing 'Messiah.'"

A 22-piece orchestra will back

the church's choir and solo performers during the 90-minute show. The concert covers the first portion of George Frideric Handel's three-part composition — the part that deals with the Nativity of Jesus — as well as the famous "Hallelujah" chorus at the end.

There are many performances of the cherished classic each winter, but Good Shepherd Church is one of the few in the borough to enlist a full orchestra. Fontana reached out to his friends, who are also professional musicians, to fill out the orchestra.

Each winter people gather from around the city and beyond to catch the performance, which is free but asks for donations so that the church can pay its performers. Fontana said that 650 people flocked to the show last year, with one visitor making a pilgrimage all the way from Pennsylvania.

And Fontana says that he cannot wait to welcome folks back to the



'Tis the season: The Good Shepherd Church choir performs Handel's "Messiah" last December. The choir has been performing the winter classic since 1996.

Good Shepherd Church

church this winter.

"They love to come to Good Shepherd," he said. "It's just glorious."

"Messiah" at Good Shepherd Church [1950 Batchelder St. at Avenue S in Marine Park, (718) 998-2800, www.goodshepherdrc.org]. Dec. 13 at 6 pm. Free.



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BLOW THEIR HORN

Hip-hop brass band celebrates anniversary

By Claire McCartney

This party will be hot as burning pitch!

A 10-piece band that plays hip-hop songs with brass instruments will celebrate five years of musical collaboration with an exuberant, vodka-fueled party at the Industry City Distillery in Sunset Park on Dec. 12. The event, which will feature rappers, brass bands, visual artists, and specialty drinks, will set the bar for good times, says the founder and manager of the PitchBlak Brass Band.

“The anniversary party is going to be one of the coolest things we’ve done all year,” said Chanell Crichlow, who also plays the tuba. “It’s just going to be a really beautiful night with really good vibes. That’s the whole point, is to set up a good vibe for everyone to just hang out and chill and celebrate with us.”

The ten members of PitchBlak met at the Manhattan School of Music, and played their first gig five years ago, at an Irish bar in Manhattan that was invaded by SantaCon. The Saturday night party is a celebration of all the group has accomplished since then, including playing the 2015 Brooklyn Hip-Hop Festival, and its upcoming residency at Greenpoint’s Manhattan Inn.

“We’re celebrating all the gaps, all the hardships, all the fun times, everything in between,” said Chrichlow. “It’s going to be a thank you to all of our fans. We’re not making money off of this show, we’re putting all of our stuff into it.



Pitching in: The 10 members of the PitchBlak Brass Band will celebrate the hip-hop group’s fifth anniversary with a party in Sunset Park on Dec. 13.

All of our friends and family and fans — it’s a holiday gift to them.”

In addition to PitchBlak, the anniversary party will feature performances from DJ Batty Jack, Flatbush rapper Latasha Alcindor, instrumentalist Ebone Trombone, and Balkan music group Raya Brass Band, along with visuals from Christian Hanon, food vendors, specialty vodka drinks made by the distillery, and a photo booth. Visitors who donate to a toy drive for children will get raffle tickets and discounted prices on food.

The combination of different genres and artists matches the group’s blend of hip-hop, jazz, and pop music. The party also reflects the current state of hip-hop, said

Crichlow, and should appeal to anyone who interested in what is happening now.

“I just think if people really want to come to a hip-hop party — different, of this century, new s---, they should come check it out,” she said. “Our party’s going to represent musicians and artists and hip-hop artists all coming together to make something beautiful and creative and just going with it.”

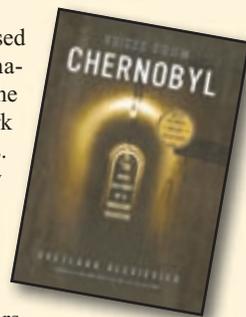
“PitchBlak Distilled: Five Years of Fire” at Industry City Distillery [33 35th St., Sixth Floor, between Second and Third avenues in Sunset Park, (718) 305-6951, www.pitch-blakbrassband.com]. Dec. 12 at 8 pm. \$15 (\$12 in advance).



The best reads — handpicked by some of the best Bklyn bookstores

Community Bookstore’s pick: “Voices from Chernobyl” by Svetlana Alexievich

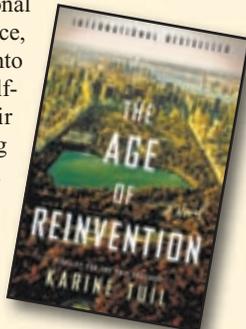
You may have been surprised by the Nobel Prize coronation of Svetlana Alexievich, the Belarusian journalist whose work is widely unknown in the States. But her work deserves every possible commendation the world can muster. “Voices from Chernobyl,” Alexievich’s 1997 account of the meltdown, collects myriad voices of survivors, victims, refugees, and children in an attempt to put a human face to one of the 20th century’s worst man-made disasters. Harrowing, horrific, and deeply humane, “Voices” is one of the rare documentary works of art that amplifies the voices of its subjects into the wild howls of literature.



— Hal Hlavinka, Community Bookstore [43 Seventh Ave. between Carroll Street and Garfield Place in Park Slope, (718) 783-3075, www.communitybookstore.net].

Greenlight Bookstore’s pick: “The Age of Reinvention” by Karine Tuil

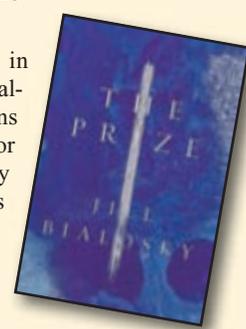
This page-turning international novel was a best-seller in France, and has now been translated into English. The book follows a self-made immigrant named Tahir and his methods of navigating success in the United States. The story spans Tahir’s childhood in Tunisia and his time in Paris, but mostly focuses on his life in New York, where he is a successful lawyer and has married into an elite family — but he isn’t everything he appears to be. This book shows, but doesn’t tell, broad topics like fidelity, love, honesty, deception, international racism, entitlement, and what it means to be successful.



— Rebecca Fitting, Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200, www.greenlightbookstore.com].

Word’s pick: “The Prize” by Jill Bialosky

Art and desire intertwine in this incisive exploration of parallel marriages and what happens when you live a life purely for love of beauty. Edward Darby is the partner of a prestigious gallery, and sees himself as an open reflection of the artists he serves. Agnes Murray is the young descendant of Irish immigrants, and her work combines the Old Masters with the recent historical horror of 9/11. Through these characters, Bialosky draws taut constant contrasts between the subtly transportive nature of sublimity in art and the gross banality of everyday life.



— Lydia Hutchins, Word [126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096, www.wordbrooklyn.com].

Bay Ridge is getting ready for the King

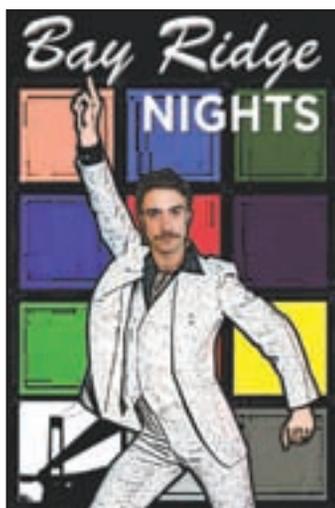
By Max Jaeger

We want to say one word to you. Are you listening? “Polyester.”

A jolly guy in a wacky suit is coming to Bay Ridge — and it is not Santa! Fashion icon Elvis Presley is not only alive — he is shaking, rattling, and rolling through the Ridge this weekend.

Get ready to welcome the “King of Rock ‘n’ Roll” by doing your own Elvis shtick at one of the ‘hood’s many karaoke nights on Friday. But first, bulk up for the role by sucking down about 10 chocolate-banana-and-peanut-butter “Elvis Presley Shakes” at Bay Ridge Diner (8017 Fifth Ave. between 80th and 81st streets).

Then flip, flop, and fly over to **Three Jolly Pigeons** (6802 Third Ave. at 68th Street) at 10 pm to sing “Animal Instinct” or go belt out



“My Desert Serenade” at **Blue Agave** (7215 Third Ave. between 72nd and 73rd streets) starting at 10:30 pm.

On Saturday, go see the one man who rocks a rhinestone-studded

leisure suit better than yours truly — Midwood’s Elvis shrine curator and tributeer extraordinaire Carey Weiner will be the King at the **Bay Ridge Jewish Center** (405 81st St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues). And dads, keep your daughters at home because this hound dog is so suave the ladies just can’t help falling in love. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. The pompadour and circumstance starts at 8 pm.

Of course, if you are not into speed-addled Nixon lovers, then go to **Leif Bar** (6725 Fifth Ave. at Senator Street) to catch The Electrix performing the acid-and-cocaine-addled noodlings of the Grateful Dead and Allman Brothers. It is sure to be a good show — they have “Captain Trips” and crew’s timbre down to a T — but you will have to get a job you dirty hippie, because tickets are \$10. Drop in (and drop out) at 10 pm.



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Off with his head: DJ and notable mask-wearer Deadmau5 will spin along with Pusha T and Slnk Donkerson (among others) at Barclays Center on Dec. 18. Associated Press / Robert Altman

COMING SOON TO BARCLAYS CENTER

SAT, DEC 12

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS: \$40–\$4,000. 5 pm.

SUN, DEC 13

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS VS NEW JERSEY DEVILS: \$70–\$1,350. 5 pm.

MON, DEC 14

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS ORLANDO MAGIC: \$20–\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

TUE, DEC 15

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS VS FLORIDA PANTHERS: \$25–\$935. 7 pm.

WED, DEC 16

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS MIAMI HEAT: \$22–\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

FRI, DEC 18

MUSIC, DEADMAU5: With Pusha T. \$55. 7 pm.

SAT, DEC 19

SPORTS, CBS SPORTS CLASSIC — NORTH CAROLINA VS UCLA AND KENTUCKY VS OHIO STATE: \$60–\$675. 1 pm.

SUN, DEC 20

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES: \$20–\$3,000. 1 pm.

MON, DEC 21

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS VS. ANAHEIM DUCKS: \$70–\$1,750. 7 pm.

TUE, DEC 22

SPORTS, ACC/A10 DOUBLEHEADER: \$30–\$50. 1 pm.

620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights (917) 618-6100, www.barclayscenter.com.

FRI, DEC. 11

MENORAH LIGHTING: Come to the lighting of the world's largest menorah every night of Hanukkah. Celebrate with live music, hot latkes, and gifts for children. Free. 3:30 pm. Grand Army Plaza (Union Street between Flatbush Avenue and Prospect Park West in Park Slope).

CARROLL GARDENS TREE LIGHTING: Celebrate the holiday season with your neighbors! Enjoy live music and food and drink from local businesses; Santa will give out donated toys to children. Free. 6–7:30 pm. The Human Compass Garden [Columbia and Sackett streets in Carroll Gardens, (718) 243-9302].

GINGERBREAD PARTY: Children 5 years and older enjoy a pizza party and get everything needed to build a gingerbread house. Reservations required. \$50 (\$10 for additional siblings). 6 pm. The Art Room (8710 Third Ave. at 87th Street in Bay Ridge).

SAT, DEC. 12

FUND RAISER, WORLD'S LARGEST CONGA LINE ON ICE: Join this attempt to set the world's record for the longest ice-skating conga line. Ticket price includes skate rental, and will benefit the American Cancer Society. \$15. 10 am. LeFrak Center at Lakeside [171 East Dr. at Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 462-0010], www.lakesidebrooklyn.com.

THEATRE, "THE HARD NUT": The Mark Morris Dance Group presents a 1970s take on the holiday classic. \$25. 7:30 pm. BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene), www.bam.org.

THE VIENNA BOYS CHOIR: "Christmas in Vienna" features young musicians performing holiday standards. \$36–\$45. 8 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College [2900 Campus Rd. between Amersfort and Kenilworth places in Midwood, (718) 951-4500], www.brooklyncenteronline.org.

SUN, DEC. 13

MUSIC, 2015 FREE HOLIDAY CONCERT: A selection of holiday favorites, along with an Irving Berlin medley. Free. 2 pm. Kingsborough Community College [2001 Oriental Blvd. at Oxford Street in Manhattan Beach, (718) 368-5000], www.kbcc.cuny.edu.

CRAFT ROOM: Get creative with a variety of materials and make a Jewish themed project. Free with museum admission. Noon–5 pm. Jewish Children's Museum [792 Eastern Pkwy. at Kingston Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 907-8833], www.jcm.museum.

GRAND MENORAH LIGHTING: Join us at our Public Menorah Lighting with singing, Chanukah gelt, and a souvenir. 3:30 pm. \$13 (\$10 seniors). 3:30 pm.

WHERE TO GO WHAT TO DO 24 SEVEN EVENTS



A Hard day's night: The Mark Morris Dance Company performs "The Hard Nut," its 1970s-style, gender-bent variation on "The Nutcracker" starting on Dec. 12. Stephanie Berger

Jewish Children's Museum [792 Eastern Pkwy. at Kingston Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 907-8833], www.jcm.museum.

SPORTS, NEW YORK RIVETERS HOME GAME: The Riveters take on the Connecticut Whales. \$20. 6:30 pm. Aviator Sports and Events Center [3159 Flatbush Ave. in Floyd Bennett Field in Marine Park, (718) 758-7500].

MON, DEC. 14

MUSIC, MARTIN MCQUADE'S "SONGS OF CHRISTMAS": Free. 7–10 pm. Yellow Hook Grille [7003 Third Ave. at Ovington Avenue in Bay Ridge, (718) 238-1089].

COMEDY, STAND UP AND SING! Comedians perform their sets and then do karaoke. Hosted by Brandon Scott Wolf and Lynn Bixen-

span. \$10 (\$8 in advance). 9 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

TUES, DEC. 15

READING, JEREMY SORESE: Jeremy Sorese's debut long-form graphic novel of futuristically epic proportions, "Curveball," juxtaposes the mechanical breakdown of the world against a compellingly quiet and human tale. Free. 7–9 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 666-3049], www.powerhousearena.com.

THEATER, "ANNIE": A Tony-winning musical about a plucky orphan. \$30–\$75. 7:30 pm. Kings Theatre [1027 Flatbush Ave. between Beverly Road and Tilden Avenue in Flatbush], www.kingstheatre.com.

WED, DEC. 16

THEATER, "SANCHO — AN ACT OF REMEMBRANCE": A one-man show of the true story of Charles Ignatius, the first man of African origin to cast a vote in Britain, and the African-British community in England in the 1700s. \$25. 7:30 pm. BAM Fisher [321 Ashland Pl. between Hansen Place and Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene], www.bam.org/visit/buildings/bam-fisher.

MUSIC, FIRE BREATHING: A new quartet of wind players performing collabora-

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tive, improvisational music. \$25 (\$20 in advance). 8 pm. Roulette [509 Atlantic Ave. at Third Avenue in Boerum Hill, (917) 267-0363], www.roulette.org.

THURS, DEC. 17

TALK, BAY RIDGE JEWISH CENTER BOOK CLUB: A discussion and analysis of "People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks. Refreshments served. \$5. 7 pm. Bay Ridge Jewish Center [8025 Fourth Ave. between 80th and 81st streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 836-3103], www.brjc.org.

FILM, "SWEET DREAMS" SCREENING AND DRUM PERFORMANCE: A special screening of the documentary about Rwanda's first-ever ice cream shop, following by a discussion with the filmmakers and a special drumming performance by the Gathering Project Drummers. With

refreshments from Blue Marble Ice Cream. \$35. 7 pm. Roulette Theater at the YWCA of Brooklyn (30 Third Ave. at State street in Boerum Hill).

FRI, DEC. 18

CONCERT, CHRISTMAS ORATORIO: Grace Chorale of Brooklyn presents Bach's movements in Parts 1, 3 and 6. \$15 (\$12 students and seniors). 7 pm to 9 pm. St. Paul's Church (199 Carroll St. in Carroll Gardens), www.gracechorale.org.

THEATER, "THE MAMET CHRISTMAS CAROL": What if foul-mouthed Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright David Mamet were to adapt Charles Dickens' classic story? Find out in this free show! Free. 8 pm. Ange Noir Cafe (247 Varet St. between White and Bogart streets in Bushwick), www.angenoircafe.com.

SAT, DEC. 19

WHISKEY, WAFFLES, AND WORKSHOP: Participate in a hands-on workshop and learn how to make two sets of coasters while drinking whiskey and eating waffles. Includes a demonstration and all materials to make two types of coasters. \$27. 11 am. New York Distilling Company (79 Richardson St. between Leonard and Lorimer streets in Williamsburg).

RED HOOK STORY ON THE QUAD HOLIDAY: Celebrate Hanukiah, Kwanzaa, Christmas and the Three Kings Day with stories about the days, toy giveaways for children to 13 years old and light refreshments. Free. 11 am to 3 pm. Red Hook Recreation Center [155 Bay St. at Clinton Street in Red Hook, (718) 722-3211], www.ny-cgovparks.org.

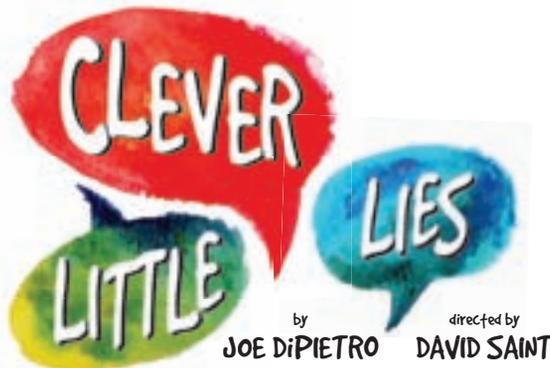
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- Huffington Post

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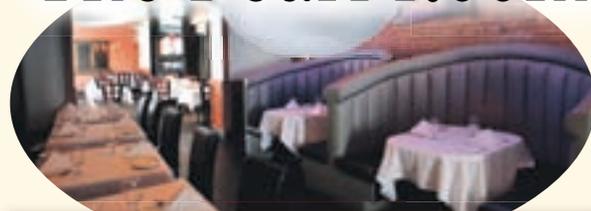
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9 PM - 1 AM SEATING | 5 COURSE PRIXE-FIXE | \$85 PER PERSON*

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AMUSE BOCHE PANKO CRUSTED SICILIAN OLIVE WITH GOAT CHEESE	N/A
1ST COURSE	
FRITTO MISTO SARDINES, SHRIMP, AND CALAMARI	15
2ND COURSE (CHOICE OF)	
RIGATONI ALLA NORMA EGGPLANT, CHERRY TOMATOES, MOZZARELLA & RICOTTA SALATA	18
LOBSTER RAVIOLI LOBSTER CRÈME BISQUE AND TRUFFLE FOAM	21
3RD COURSE	
BEEF SALAD	15
4TH COURSE (CHOICE OF)	
FILET MIGNON MASHED PARSNIP AND GLAZED CARROTS WITH A WHITE BALSAMIC VANILLA GLAZE	30
GADDINA DI CASA ROASTED FIRED CHICKEN, VEGETABLE COUS-COUS, BLACK TRUFFLE SAUCE	23
FILET OF RED SNAPPER EGGPLANT CAPONATA, LEMON-ROSEMARY PRESERVE, VINEGARETTE	28
5TH COURSE (CHOICE OF)	
CASSATA	10
MINI CANOLLI	8
TORTA STRATTO	11

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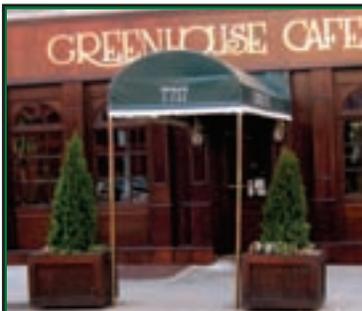
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Choice of Appetizer

Caesar Salad
Dinner Salad
Fried Calamari
Seafood Salad
Lasagna Bolognese
Soup du Jour

Choice of Dessert

Ice Cream or Sherbet
Chocolate Mousse
Tiramisu
Cheesecake
Fresh Fruit Plate
Apple Strudel
COFFEE • TEA

Choice of Entrée

Shrimp Scampi, Sautéed with White Wine, Lemon, Garlic & Butter
Roast Loin of Pork with Baconkraut and Dark Ale Gravy
Chicken Cutlet Parmigiana
Boneless Breast of Chicken Francaise
Seafood Fra Diavolo Over Angel Hair Pasta (*Mild or Spicy*)
Penne Vodka with Grilled Chicken
Cold Water Salmon with Citrus Chive Sauce
Filet Mignon 10 oz. Cut **(\$12 Extra)**
Twin 5 oz. Lobster Tails **(\$12 Extra)**
Surf & Turf – 5 oz. Filet, 5 oz. Tail **(\$12 Extra)**
All Entrees Served With Potato or Rice and Vegetable Garni

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Fresh Fruit
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9:30 or 10:00 pm seating

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Dancing, Hats, Noisemakers

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Dinner, 3pm - 8pm

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Lasagna Bolognese • Stuffed Mushrooms
Soup Du Jour • Fried Calamari
Grand House Salad • Caesar Salad

Choice of Entrée

Roast Pork Loin

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Chicken Francaise

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Shrimp Scampi

Sautéed with White Wine, Lemon, Garlic & Butter

Broiled Salmon

With Champagne Dill Sauce

Filet Mignon 10 oz. Cut **(Add \$12.00)**

Twin 5 oz. Lobster Tails **(Add \$12.00)**

Two Tails Served with Drawn Butter

Surf & Turf **(Add \$12.00)**

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Happy New Year
to all*

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE FAMILY COURT CASE NO:

2015-DR-07-248
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF BEAUFORT. FAREK YULISSA SOSA, Plaintiff, vs. JUAN CARLOS MANCHAME LAGOS, Defendant. SUMMONS. TO: JUAN CARLOS MANCHAME LAGOS, THE DEFENDANT HEREIN: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action of which a copy is here-with served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer to the said Complaint on the sub-scriber at her offices at P.O. BOX 5898, HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, 29938, with-in thirty (30) days after the service hereof; exclu-sive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint. Dated at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina this 10th day of February, 2015. Respectfully submitted, Kennedy & Blackshire, LLC. Bree R Kennedy, Bar Roll #69112 Attorney for the Plaintiff. Post Office Box 5898 Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29938. 843-341-5555.

LEGAL NOTICE

101 Norman Ave Realty LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 11/9/15. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 242 Adams Rd., Hewlett, NY 11557. General purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

110 S.E., LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 11/5/15. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 110 S. Elliott Pl., Brooklyn, NY 11217. General purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

1268 Sutter Realty LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 10/20/15. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as

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agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 1268 Sutter Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11208. General purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 1268 Sutter Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11208. General purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

158 Halsey Street LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 11/5/15. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 1259 Dean St., Brooklyn, NY 11216. General purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

1882 Bergen St LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 11/25/15. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Boronia Fallshaw, 22 North 6th St., Unit 18D, Brooklyn, NY 11249. General purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

248 Fordham Road LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 11/1/96. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o J Khezrie, 43 Hall St., 7th Fl., Brooklyn, NY 11205. General purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

527 GROUP LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/01/15. Office: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 14 Bond Street, #404, Great Neck, NY 11021. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

566 Grand LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 9/25/15. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail

LEGAL NOTICE

process to Jeffrey Lorenz, 308 Livingston St., Apt. 3R, Brooklyn, NY 11217. General purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

Aram Lee LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 9/15/15. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Aram Lee, 272 St. Nicholas Ave., Apt. 1, Brooklyn, NY 11237. General purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

Aurochs Insurance Brokerage LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 11/18/15. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Matthew J. Baione Esq., Cole Hansen Chester LLP, 767 3rd Ave., Fl. 24, NY, NY 10017. General purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

Berko Music Therapy LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 10/19/15. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 106 South Elliott Pl., Brooklyn, NY 11217. General purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

Cui's Realty LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 9/4/15. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Xi Chang Cui, 117 11th St., #201, Brooklyn, NY 11215. General purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

Dispersed Holdings, LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 11/10/15. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Joyce Yanakas, 385 Henry Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. General purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

DLF Projects LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 11/10/15. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 235 Withers St., Brooklyn, NY 11211. General purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

Front Room LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 11/5/15. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 4 Dennet Place, Apt. 1L, Brooklyn, NY 11231. General purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

HJ Realty B18 LLC, Arts of Org filed with SSNY on 05/21/15. Office Location: Kings County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: The LLC, 136-20 38th Ave., # 7J, Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act.

LEGAL NOTICE

Jaman Realty LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 5/6/15. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 106 South Elliott Pl., Brooklyn, NY 11217. General purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

JSK Associates L.L.C., a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 10/27/99. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Joyce Yanakas, 385 Henry Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. General purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

Lopez Talent Management, LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 9/14/15. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process

LEGAL NOTICE

against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 457 Washington Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11238. General purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

Marwood Development LLC, Arts of Org filed with SSNY on 10/26/15. Office Location: Kings County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: The LLC, 104 Hoyt St., Brooklyn, NY 11217. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act.

LEGAL NOTICE

Morpaki Realty LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 10/19/15. Off. Loc.: Kings Co. SSNY desig. as agt. upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 1425 73rd St., Brooklyn, NY 11228. General Purposes.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation Idea Magna Group LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY 10/22/15. Off. Loc.: Kings Cnty. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 524 Manhattan Ave Apt. 5B, Brooklyn, NY 11222. Purpose: all lawful activities.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of 3406 AVE. T LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/9/15. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to: 5 West End Ave., Spotswood, NJ 08884. Purpose: any lawful act.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of First Architectural Products LLC, Art. of Org. filed with Sec'y of State (SSNY) on 10/13/15. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Howard Smolen, Esq.,

LEGAL NOTICE

360 Great Neck Rd., Great Neck, NY 11021. Purpose: any lawful activities.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of G.C. Global, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/17/00. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: G.C. Global, LLC, 25 Eighth Ave., Suite B, Brooklyn, NY 11217. Purpose: all lawful purposes.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: UNITED HANDYMAN, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 07/22/2015. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: THE LLC 443 39TH STREET, 4TH FLOOR BROOKLYN, NY 11232. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: 124 CENTRAL AVE REALTY, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/28/2015. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: C/O ERESIDENTAGENT, INC. 12121 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD SUITE 1201 LOS ANGELES, CA 90025. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: P & G IMPORTS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/15/2015. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to:

LEGAL NOTICE

PETER D'ADDEO 1022 BROADWAY BROOKLYN, NY 11221. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: PREPGO, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/20/2015. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: C/O UNITED STATES CORPORATION AGENTS, INC. 7014 13TH AVENUE, SUITE 202 BROOKLYN, NY 11228 Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: SORENTIA LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/16/2015. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: KUNDAPA WALL 424 BEDFORD AVE APT 7C BROOKLYN, NY 11249. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: D NICE NO. 1 LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 07/06/2015 Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: MONISE RICHARD 12 PROSPECT DRIVE BRENTWOOD, NY 11717. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

One Red Egg LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 10/08/15. Off. Loc.: Kings Co. SSNY desig. as agt. upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 2355 W. 12th St., Brooklyn, NY 11223. General Purposes.

● 'They played for each other and they got the job done.'

— Coach Bruce Eugene on Grand Street's win

● 'No matter how many times I say it ... I'm getting better.'

— Heather Hardy on her recent win

Big Mack: Star receiver seals title win

BY BRANDON MAUK

Taysir Mack rewarded his teammates' faith in him with Grand Street's first-ever city championship win.

The Wolves were fourth down and five to go at Erasmus Hall's 35-yard line with less than two minutes to play and just a two-point lead during the Public School Athletic League City Conference football championship at Yankee Stadium on Dec. 5. Coach Bruce Eugene wanted to punt, but the entire offense rallied behind star receiver Taysir Mack, Eugene said.

"They told me 'Nah, coach, give the ball to Taysir,'" Eugene said.

And Mack didn't disappoint.

Quarterback Sharif Harris-Legree found him for a five-yard reception at the 30-yard line that picked up just enough for a game-sealing first down.

The play allowed second-



CHAMPS: The Grand Street players celebrate the school's first ever Public School Athletic League City Conference football crown.

Photo by Robert Cole

seeded Grand Street to hold No. 6 Erasmus Hall to 28-26 and win the school's first-ever championship.

Mack hadn't caught a single pass in the second half, but Eugene and the rest of the Wolves put their faith in him, he said.

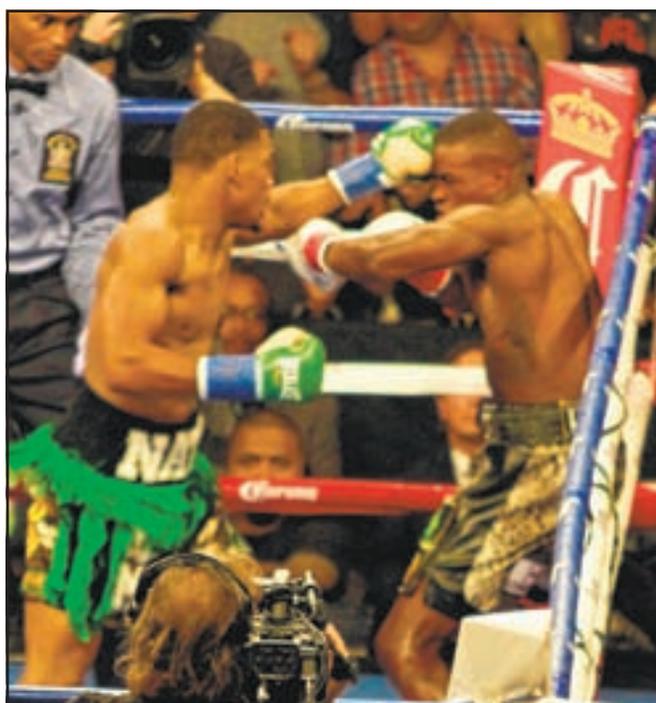
"Coach said, 'It's on you. We catch this, we win,'" said Mack, who hauled in a total six passes for 92 yards.

The Wolves (13-0) completed a perfect season by sticking to their guns — Eugene leaned on a Harris-Legree-and-Mack passing attack in the first half and then went to his running game and defense after the break.

"They believed in each other, and they played for each other, and they got the job done," said Eugene, who became the first African-American coach to win the crown.

Erasmus Hall fell short in the final for the second consec-

Continued on page 54



STAR IS BORN: Danny Jacobs used three big right hands and a few lighting quick flurries to earn a dramatic technical knockout of Peter Quillin in a World Boxing Association middleweight title bout at Barclays Center on Dec. 5.

Photo by Steve Schnibbe

Jacobs's star rises after first-round TKO of Quillin

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

A mega-star is born.

Danny Jacobs used three big right hands and a few lighting-quick flurries to earn a dramatic technical knockout of Peter Quillin at 1:25 of the first round in a World Boxing Association middleweight title bout in front of a 8,443-strong crowd at Barclays Center on Dec. 5. The Brownsville boxer and cancer survivor saw the previously unbeaten Downtown denizen Quillin stagger after a hard right-hander in the first round and never let up. Jacobs could see in Quillin's eyes that he was hurt, so he rushed his staggering oppo-

nent, throwing punch after punch after punch.

"When I came in with the heavy shot, I knew I hurt him," Jacobs said. "Then I went in for the kill."

Quillin (32-1-1, 23 knockouts) escaped for a moment, but Jacobs (31-1-0, 28 knockouts) landed two more hard rights to Quillin's left temple and watched him stumble into the ropes. Quillin wobbled, and his eyes glazed over as he rose. Referee Harvey Dock stopped the fight. Quillin never took a knee to compose himself.

"I was able to catch him with the right, and I seen his eyes," Jacobs said. "It looked

like his equilibration was off. So I just corralled him and threw big shots."

Quillin saw no controversy in the stoppage and felt the referee had his long-term health in mind.

"Harvey was definitely doing his job," he said.

Jacobs' aggression quickly ended a fight that was two years in the making. He has been calling out Quillin, the former World Boxing Organization champ, in hopes of landing a fight that would help his career and settle the battle for who is the best fighter from Brooklyn.

Promoter Lou DiBella
Continued on page 54

Boxing rabbi victorious after two-year sabbatical

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Park Slope's boxing rabbi got an early Hanukkah gift on Saturday.

Former world super welterweight champion Yuri Foreman earned a unanimous decision victory — 77-75 on all three scorecards — over Lenwood Dozier in his first fight in more than two years at Barclays Center on Dec. 5. He left the sport after a series of injuries and became an Orthodox rabbi during his hiatus.

Foreman chose to get back between the ropes after missing his first love of boxing, and now he is looking to make another run at a title. The 35-year-old said a knee injury kept him from performing at 100 percent when he lost the belt to Miguel Cotto in 2010 — now he wants to see what he has left.

"I miss what I do," Foreman said. "I missed the whole process, the whole routine. I want to get another crack at the title."

Foreman felt ring rust early, and a few heavy Dozier shots caught him flush, but Foreman shed the cobwebs in the later rounds and landed enough hits to take home the victory. Foreman is happy to be back.

"I liked the whole process,



BACK IN GLOVES: Yuri Foreman returned to the ring after a two-year hiatus to take on Lenwood Dozier. Photo by Steve Schnibbe

butterflies and all that," he said. "It was a good feeling to experience again."

Wait worth it for Hardy

Heather Hardy scored a unanimous 80-72, 80-72, 79-73 victory over Noemi Bosques after waiting more than seven hours to get into the ring. The rematch of a fight Hardy won

by split decision back in May was a swing bout originally scheduled fourth but which didn't go on until after the main event because of time constraints. Hardy had to adjust.

"I was so nervous, because I was tired," she said. "I was falling a sleep in the dressing room."

Continued on page 54

Wolves enjoy playing villains to the end

You don't have to like Grand Street, but that doesn't change the history it made winning its first city championship.

"Through all our ups and down, trials and tribulations, everything came down to this," said Grand Street coach Bruce Eugene. "My kids fought. They clawed. They scratched. It was well worth it."

The Wolves feed off playing the villain, fully embracing it. The coaches wear all-black hoodies that say "NY's Most Hated" with pride.

The boisterous Eugene enjoyed his championship moment by grabbing television microphones after his clubs' 28-26 victory against Erasmus Hall at Yankee Stadium on Dec. 6, swaying back and forth, and yelling "At the end of the day, it says 28-26 — 28-26 Grand Street!" as his team chanted along. It was the Wolves' first-ever title, and Eugene is the first African-American coach to win one at the league's highest level.

His team didn't get there by playing nice or making popular choices.

Eugene took heat for all the transfers he brought in, including senior quarterback Sharif Harris-Legree from Fort Hamilton. The coach was suspended two games for breaking the league's rules regarding scrimmages when his club played Jersey's Pope John Paul XXII Academy at Rutgers University.

Most recently, he and the school took flak for allowing senior Rahmel Ashby to play after police arrested the running back on Oct. 30 on gun possession charges. Ashby, who was eligible to play by league academic and attendance rules, was also arrested in April 2014 for attempted murder, court records show.

"It's always daggers," Eugene said. "If it ain't one thing it's another thing."

Eugene praised how Ashby (24 carries, 116 yards) played after the story broke days before the big game.



JOE KNOWS

by Joe Staszewski

"You saw the way he ran the ball," he said. "Everything else was blocked out. He played his tail off."

Eugene should be more concerned with Ashby's actions off the field — and teaching the young man a lesson by sitting him and showing there are consequences for your actions, whether he is eventually found innocent or not. That is the very essence of high school sports.

But that wasn't Grand Street's operation during its undefeated season.

It overcame Harris-Legree sitting out two games over eligibility issues. It overcame 14 penalties for 141 yards to beat defending champion Abraham Lincoln in the regular season. Grand Street got the benefit of an offensive pass interference call against Curtis that wiped away a potentially game-winning touchdown in the semifinals after 15 total Wolves penalties.

Nothing mattered in the end, thanks to the team's unity.

"When everyone wants the same thing, it's easy," receiver Taysir Mack said.

Things ended exactly as planned, and what others are saying matters less now than ever. The celebration at Yankee Stadium ended with Eugene — trophy in hand — singing "We are the Champions" with his coaches as he walked of the field.

Cougars fall in quest for title

BY BRANDON MAUK

There was no dramatic comeback this time.

The sixth-seeded Franklin D. Roosevelt football team used a last-minute fake field goal to reach the finals, but there was no 11th-hour spectacle in the championship game. The team's quest for a second-straight title ended with a bitter, 42-14 loss to No. 2 Truman in the Public School Athletic League Bowl Conference championship at MCU Park on Dec. 5. Still getting there was an accomplishment in itself, one player said.

"No one thought we were going to come back here and play again," senior ReJohn Williams said. "I'm proud that we actually did make it here."

Roosevelt managed just one offensive touchdown all game, and Truman shut down



GONE: Franklin Roosevelt's ReJohn Williams runs for a big gain against Truman. Photo by Robert Cole

quarterback Nadir Hassan and the Cougars' potent rushing attack. It put the team in a 36-8 hole and left coach Paul Klyap impressed with the new champs.

"We were pulling out some pretty tough games [all year],

and it just ran out on us," he said. "They're good. Truman was good. I give all the credit to them."

Truman jumped out to a 16-0 lead in the second quarter. Roosevelt responded with a nine-play, 74-yard drive capped by a six-yard touchdown pass from Hassan to ReJohn Williams with 43.8 seconds left.

Just as it looked like the Cougars squad was turning the tables, Truman stole the momentum right back. Roosevelt (10-4) attempted to boot the ensuing kickoff away from Truman's main returner Ramon Jefferson, but Mustangs quarterback Imotep Cromer took it and went the distance for a 72-yard touchdown return. Just like that, Truman (12-1) led by two

Continued on page 54

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SPEEDSTER: Grand Street's Rahmel Ashby ran for 116 yards in the City Conference football title game. Photo by Robert Cole

MACK

Continued from page 51

utive season and the third time it its last four appearances.

But Grand Street had no trouble scoring in the early going. Harris-Legree got Grand Street off to a fast start with three touchdown passes on three of the Wolves' first four drives. He joins his brothers Jeff Legree (Fort Hamilton) and Chris Legree (South Shore, and now also a Grand Street assistant coach) as a public school champion.

He threw a 25-yard score to Kyle Brisfere, another for 28 yards to Ahmed Bah late in the first quarter, and a third to Mack from three yards out early in the second. The first trip to the end zone gave the team the momentum it needed.

"Once we got that first touchdown, we knew we were rolling," said Harris-Legree, who was 15-for-22 passing for 202 yards.

Erasmus (10-4) responded to each of Grand Street's first three scores. Aaron Grant threw an eight-yard touchdown to Daevon Alvarez on fourth down late in the second quarter to cut the Wolves' lead to 22-20. Grant posted 183 yards of total offense and three scores.

Grand Street closed out the half with a perfect two-minute drive that Legree capped with a nine-yard touchdown with 15 seconds left to make it 28-20. The Wolves's defense got the job done from there.

Grand Street muffed a

punt that E-Hall's Jahquel Webb recovered midway through the third quarter. He scored a play later on an eight-yard touchdown pass from Grant. But the Wolves denied Dejourree Addison's two-point conversion attempt to keep Grand Street ahead 28-26. Erasmus head coach Danny Landberg questioned the ref's call, believing Addison didn't fall short.

"He scored," Landberg said.

The Dutchmen had one more chance when the team moved the ball to Grand Street's 14-yard line midway through the fourth quarter, but two Wolves tackles for a loss and a failed play on fourth-and-21 kept Erasmus off the board.

"Very frustrating, but we play the game — there's got to be a winner and there's got to be a loser," Landberg said. "We keep on fighting to the next day. We'll be back."

Grand Street's Rahmel Ashby, who finished with 116 yards on the day helped move the ball into Dutchmen territory. The senior running back was playing while out on bail — he faces attempted murder and gun possession charges in two separate cases from this year and last.

Mack brought him and the rest of his teammates back to Brooklyn happy with his game-sealing grab.

"I just wanted to come through in the clutch for my team," Mack said. "I knew I had it. My team was confident in me."

BOXING

Continued from page 52

Hardy (15-0-1) showed no ill effects once she got between the ropes. The Gerritsen Beach native was aggressive and accurate and showed a little more pop throughout the eight rounds. Hardy was pleased with her elusiveness — it shows how much she continues to grow as fighter, she said.

"No matter how many times I say it — man these girls don't believe it — I'm getting better," Hardy said.

B'klyn firefighter snuffed

Will Rosinsky couldn't fully size up Joe Smith Jr. The Crown Heights firefighter did not build off a strong start and lost a unanimous decision, 98-92, 97-93, 96-94, to the bigger and harder-hitting opponent in a light heavyweight bout.

"His size played a role in the later rounds," the 5-foot-8 Rosinsky said. "He's a big guy, a tough guy. He had a lot of little elbows, hitting right at the belt line, which was smart. The refs didn't catch it."

Rosinsky (10-3, 10 knockouts) won the first two rounds by out-boxing the lanky, 6-foot Smith. He was aggressive, attacked the body, and landed some well-timed combinations.

"The plan the whole time was to pretty much out-box him," Rosinsky said.

The fight changed after Smith (20-1, 16 knockouts) landed a sharp right in the fourth round. Smith began connecting with numerous hard shots. A solid right in the fifth opened up a deep cut over Rosinsky's left eye that hampered him the rest of the bout.



HEAT OF THE MOMENT: Heather Hardy scored a unanimous victory over Noemi Bosques after waiting more than seven hours to get in the ring. Photo by Steve Schnibbe

"When the blood goes in your eye, it kind of blurs your vision," he said. "I kept wiping it to get it out of my eye."

Wilder to defend championship

The first heavyweight title fight ever at Barclays Center will take place on Jan. 16. American Deontay Wilder, who wants to unify the division, will put his World Boxing Commission belt on the line against a to-be-determined opponent. It will also be the undefeated Wilder's first bout in Brooklyn, and he can't wait to show off his talents in front of Kings County fans.

"I'm looking forward to it," Wilder said. "A lot of things happened in my career at the right time. It's time. This is the next step for me in my career."

JACOBS

Continued from page 51

said Jacobs is more than Brooklyn's best after his display of speed, accuracy, and power.

"He's a big star," DiBella said. "He is one of the best middleweights in the world."

Jacobs said he wasn't sure if he was a superstar.

But the results don't lie.

The victory is Jacobs's third title defense and the most impressive of the bunch. It puts him in the running for a championship unification bout in the future against International Boxing Federation champ Gennady Golovkin, World Boxing Council title holder Saul "Canelo" Alvarez, or World Boxing Organization champion Andy Lee. Jacobs is willing to fight any of them and is open to taking on the Irish fighter Lee around St. Patrick's Day.

"I feel like I am on fire now," Jacobs said

"I'm willing to take on the best."

He had to wait until he was a champ himself to get a shot at Quillin, a fighter he has been friendly with since their days fighting in the Golden Gloves. Jacobs is willing to give him a rematch, but Quillin may not immediately take him up on that.

Quillin, who is 1-1-1 in his last three fights, took the defeat in stride. He's a husband and father, so having it happen at this point in his career allowed him to be humble in defeat and look at the big picture.

"I don't want to talk like this is the end of 'Kid Chocolate,'" he said, referring to his boxing nickname. "It's just a different plan that I didn't know about."

And Jacobs's stock continues to soar. Others talk about him as the sport's new superstar, but Jacobs doesn't see himself that way just yet.

"I still have a lot to prove," he said. "I'm a young champion. I'm the new kid on the block."

TRUMAN

Continued from page 52

scores at halftime — and Roosevelt was never the same after that.

"That killed us. That really hurt," Klyap said. "We got the ball on the ground like we wanted to, and it just didn't happen."

Roosevelt attempted an onside kick to open the second quarter, and Williams appeared to have recovered it, but the ball stayed with Truman. Cromer and George Obesaki each scored third-quarter touchdowns to push the Truman lead to 36-8.

The Cougars got back on the board with an 82-

yard kickoff return and touchdown by Williams midway through the third, but the offense never got fully going.

Williams tried a trick play, but Hassan threw an interception to safety Damone Bailey. The next and final possession ended in the same fashion, this time in the red zone — Bailey picked off Hassan inside the 20.

Ten Cougars seniors closed out their careers with the loss, but they remain proud of the success they have had the last few years, which included the school's first title.

"We never gave up on each other," Williams said. "We're always going to be here even after the season. We're going to be here for each other no matter what."

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: 87 AVENUEO, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/15/2015. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: THE LLC 389 ATLANTIC AVE BROOKLYN, NY 11217. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: REPEAT & RINSE ENTERTAINMENT, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 04/06/2015. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: C/O UNITED STATES CORPORATION AGENTS, INC. 7014 13TH AVENUE, SUITE 202 BROOKLYN, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: 1153 CADESCA CASH LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 07/06/2015. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: MON-ISE RICHARD 12 PROSPECT DRIVE BRENTWOOD, NY 11717. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: YU & XIONG SERVICE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/06/2015. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: YU & XIONG SERVICE LLC 1773 65TH ST BROOKLYN, NY 11204. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION of SOPHIA LIN 1206 LLC a domestic Limited Liability Company (LLC); Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 07-13-2015. Office location: Kings County. Secretary of State is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of any process to the LLC at 2114 62ND STREET, BROOKLYN, N Y, 11204 Purpose: to engage in any lawful act or activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of Swim Headquarters LLC. Articles of Org. filed with NY Secretary of State (NS) on 11/04/2015, office location: Kings County, NS is designated as agent upon whom process may be served, NS shall mail service of process (SOP) to Ziliang Li @ 339 Ave T, Brooklyn, NY 11223, general purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of 444 55th Street, LLC. Authority filed with NY Dept. of State on

LEGAL NOTICE

11/18/15. Office location: Kings County. Princ. bus. addr.: 5 Old Lancaster Rd., Malvern, PA 19355. LLC formed in DE on 11/16/15. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: c/o CT Corporation System, 111 8th Ave., NY, NY 10011, regd. agent upon whom process may be served. DE addr. of LLC: 1209 Orange St., Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Sec. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: all lawful purposes.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Simply DeliciousNess, LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/28/15. Office location: Kings County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 4/10/15. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 560 Blake Ave., Apt. 5C, Brooklyn, NY 11207. Address to be maintained in DE: c/o National

LEGAL NOTICE

Registered Agents, Inc., 160 Greentree Dr., Ste. 101, Dover, DE 19904. Arts of Org. filed with the State of DE Secy. of State, Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St. #4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activities.

LEGAL NOTICE

ROW JIMMY PICTURES, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/09/15. Office: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 70 Washington Street, #9-0, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

South Side Williamsburg Dental Management LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 11/9/15. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 231 South 3rd St., Brooklyn, NY 11211. General purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

TA JV LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 8/5/15. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to TankHouse LLC, 55 Washington St., Brooklyn, NY 11201. General purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

FOREIGN LIMITED PARTNERSHIP: Notice of Formation of Foreign Limited Partnership: Name: 7752 Hammerly Realty, Ltd. Application for Authority was filed by the Department of State of New York on: 09/15/2015 The L.P. agrees to ad the abbreviation of L.P. to the end of its name to use in this state. Jurisdiction: Texas Filed on: 04/10/2008 Office location: County of Kings Purpose: any and all lawful activities. Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: Goldmont Realty Corp. 1360 East 14th Street Brooklyn, NY

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11230 Address of office required to be maintained in its jurisdiction: c/o G.J. Braun Corporation 1407 W. Clay Street Houston, TX 77019 Authorized officer in its jurisdiction is: Secretary of State of Texas James E. Rudder Building 1019 Brazos Austin, TX 78701

LEGAL NOTICE

Gordon B. Anderson, M.D., PLLC, a domestic PLLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 9/29/15. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the PLLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The PLLC, 212 South Oxford St., 9E, Brooklyn, NY 11217. Purpose: Medicine.

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Letitia James Warns Consumers About Classified Ads

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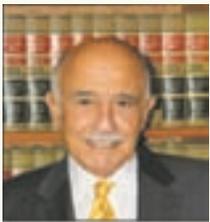
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